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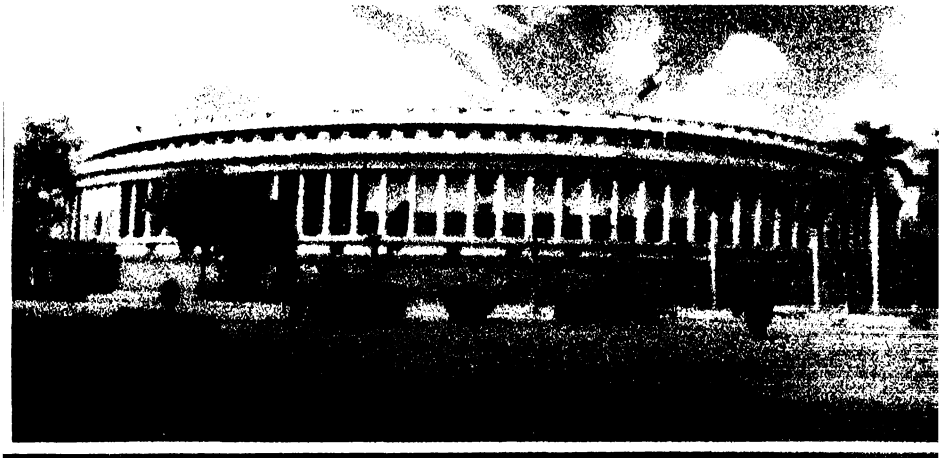

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI

THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

VOL. XLVI NO. 1 MARCH 2000

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THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

EDITOR: G.C. Malhotra

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The *Journal* serves as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities. It provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

The Editor would welcome articles on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects for publication in the *Journal.* A token honorarium is payable for articles, etc. accepted for publication. The articles should be type-written on only one side of the paper.

Latest books on parliamentary and constitutional subjects are reviewed in the *Journal* by members of Parliament and scholars. Books intended for review should be sent to the Editor.

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* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

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a) Telugu Desam Party–180; All India Majlis-Ittehadul-Muslimeen-4; and Nominated–1

b) Rashtriya Janata Dal–124; Samata Party–34; Janata Dal (U)–21; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha–12; CPI (Male)–6; Bahujan Samaj Party–5; Congress Samajwadi Party–2; UJDP–2; Marxist Coordination Committee–1; and Nominated–1

c) Rashtriya Janata Dal–26; Janata Dal (U)–2; Samata Party–1 and Unattached–1.

d) Goa People's Congress Party–11; Indian National Congress (Shaikh Hassan Group)–5; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party–2 and Nationalist Congress Party–1

e) Indian National Lok Dal–46; Haryana Vikas Party–2; Bahujan Samaj Party–1; Nationalist Congress Party–1; and Republican Party of India–1

f) Janata Dal (U)–19; Janata Dal (S)–4; AIADMK–1; and Nominated–1

g) Janata Dal (S)–16; Janata Dal (J)–9; and Separty Group of Janata Dal–2

h) Bahujan Rashtriya Congress–175; B.S.P.–7; Samajwadi Party–4; Republican Party of India–1; Janata Dal–1; Gondvana Republican Party 1; Ajay Bharat Party–1; and Nominated–1

i) Manipur State Congress Party–23; Federal Party of Manipur–6; Manipur People's Party–1; Nationalist Congress Party–1; Janata Dal (S)–1; Samata Party–1; Manipur People's Party (K)–3; Nationalist Congress Party (O)–3; Nationalist Congress Party (D)–1; Rashtriya Janata Dal (H)–1; and Janata Dal (2)–1

(j) MPF–41; and UDP–4

(k) Mizo National Front–21; and Mizoram People's Conference–12

l) Shiromani Akali Dal–63; Unattached–13; Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann)–1; and Bahujan Samaj Party–1

m) Sikkim Democratic Front–28; and Sikkim Sangram Parishad–4

n) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–162; Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)–37; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–4; Indian National League–3; Pattali Makkal Katchi–3; All India Forward Block–2; Tamil Maanila National League–2; Puthiya Tamilagam–1; Unattached–1; and Nominated–1

o) RSP–2; and T.U.J.S.–4

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–19; Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)–6; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–2; Pattali Makkal

EDITORIAL NOTE

The 26th of January, 1950 was a red letter day in the history of the Indian nation. It was on that day that we, the people of India, proclaimed ourselves to be a Republic. Two days earlier, on 24 January 1950, we also gave unto ourselves the Constitution of free India. Fifty years down the lane, the Republic of India stands tall and proud among the comity of nations as the world's largest democracy. To mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic, a function was held on 27 January 2000 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Subsequently, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi released the Special Commemorative Plaque brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Plaque carried the logo of the 50th anniversary of the Republic and a replica of the Parliament House. Later, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee released the calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India in Hindi. Excerpts from the historic speeches of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were then relayed along with visuals. After that, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant released a Special Commemorative Stamp brought out by the Ministry of Communications to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic. Thereafter, the National Song *Vande Mataram* was sung by two eminent vocalists. Later, an album of *Jana Gana Mana* was released by the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan. The President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Lok Sabha Speaker also addressed the distinguished gathering at the function which concluded with the singing of the National Anthem by a group of music maestros. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the historic occasion.

The Indian Parliament can justifiably be proud of having in its Chambers outstanding parliamentarians who have contributed substantially towards strengthening a parliamentary culture in our country. With a view to recognizing the contributions of such eminent parliamentarians, the Indian Parliamentary Group, in 1995, instituted an Outstanding Parliamentarian Award to be given every year. A function to confer the

Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 1997 and 1998 on Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, respectively, was held on 17 December 1999 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant presented the Awards to Shri Mukherjee and Shri Reddy. The function was addressed by the Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Jaipal Reddy also spoke on the occasion. The texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries at the function are included in this issue of the *Journal.*

The imperative of familiarizing new members of Parliament with the nuances and intricacies of parliamentary functioning, particularly parliamentary practices and procedures, has long been underscored in the parliamentary circles. In India, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat has been organising such Orientation Programmes for newly-elected members of Parliament and various State Legislatures. The Thirteenth Lok Sabha, when constituted, had 171 newly-elected members. An Orientation Programme for those new members was organised by the BPST from 8 to 16 December 1999. The Programme provided opportunities to members to discuss and analyze various aspects of parliamentary processes and procedures and familiarize them more closely with the operational mechanics of parliamentary institutions. The Programme consisted of interactive discussion sessions on topics of parliamentary interest. The discussion on each topic was initiated by experienced parliamentarians and other experts. The Programme was inaugurated by the Lok Sabha, Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The inaugural function was also addressed by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan. We include the texts of the addresses delivered by the dignitaries at the inaugural function in this issue of the *Journal.*

It is a truism that the character and quality of parliamentary democracy depend very much on the quality and caliber of persons who man the representative bodies which are the supreme institutions in politics. It has also been widely held that the members' behaviour should be such as to enhance the prestige and dignity of Parliament. The degree of esteem in which the people of a country hold its Parliament is a sure sign of the success and maturity of its democratic process. In his article titled *Imperative of Discipline and Decorum in Parliament* included in this issue of the *Journal,* the Speaker, Lok

Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, observes that the image of Parliament and its credibility as a representative institution largely depend on the role and functions of its members. In this task, the Speaker, as the Presiding Officer of the House, has a crucial role to play. The maintenance of orderly conduct of business in the House is the fundamental duty of the Speaker. He is not only the moderator and facilitator of the sittings of the House, but is also the authority invested with the responsibility to help frame sound rules, practices, customs and conventions and thereby to evolve a healthy parliamentary culture. Shri Balayogi rightly stresses that the imperative for maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament could hardly be over-emphasized, adding that incidents of pandemonium and unruly scenes are a matter of concern to all those connected with the working of parliamentary institutions.

The socio-economic background of members of Parliament, it is observed, has a bearing on their role and functions as elected representatives of the people. The article titled 'Members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha: A Socio-Economic Study', included in this issue of the *Journal,* attempts to study the data about the socio-economic background of members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Analysis has been made on the basis of their age, education, occupation, political affiliation, marital status and past legislative experience. The article also makes a comparative assessment of the data relating to the Twelfth Lok Sabha with that of the Eleventh Lok Sabha as also the earlier Houses, wherever necessary, to draw certain conclusions about the general trends of representation. A statistical profile of new members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha has also been included in the study. The analysis of the socio-economic profiles of the members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha reveals that there is a continued transfer of political power from the urban elite to the rural masses.

On 4 March 1997, an Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha was constituted to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and the cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of members. The Committee presented its First Report to the Rajya Sabha on 8 December 1998. The Report, among other things, recommended the framework of a Code of Conduct for members of the Rajya Sabha. On 13 December 1999, the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Shri S.B. Chavan, presented the Second Report in the Rajya Sabha. The Report, which *inter alia* covered the Register of Members' Interests, Declaration of Interests, Procedure for making complaint against members and the Procedure for Inquiry and Penalties, was adopted by the

Rajya Sabha on 15 December 1999. We include in this issue of the *Journal* a Short Note titled,"The Second Report of the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha" highlighting the recommendations of the Ethics Committee.

On 8 December 1999, a pictorial Exhibition entitled "Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India", was inaugurated by the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi. The Exhibition depicted the history and growth of the parliamentary system in India with the aid of photographs, write-ups, charts, diagrams, quotations and Press headlines. Some of the important areas covered in the Exhibition were ancient and modern democratic institutions in India, freedom movement, transfer of power, adoption of the Constitution of India, offices of the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Presiding Officers and Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs since 1947, present leaders of various political parties in the Lok Sabha and some other important activities of Parliament, etc. Another Short Note titled 'Exhibition on Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India' is included in this issue of the *Journal.*

Besides, we carry in this issue our other regular Features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Reviews, Summaries of Books, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

We would like to felicitate Shri M.V. Venkatappa, Smt. Kalawati Subba and Smt. K. Pratibha Bharati on their election as the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Sikkim Legislative Assembly and Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, respectively. We also extend our hearty felicitations to Shri Pramod Shende on his election as the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

We would also like to convey our warmest congratulations to all the newly-elected members of the Rajya Sabha.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem-oriented non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—G.C. Malhotra
Editor

1

ADDRESSES ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

A function to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of India was held on 27 January 2000 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Subsequently, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi released the Special Commemorative Plaque brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Plaque carried the logo of the 50th Anniversary of the Republic and a replica of the Parliament House. Later, the Speaker, Lok Sabha also addressed the distinguished gathering.

The Lok Sabha Speaker then requested the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to release the calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India in Hindi. The calligraphy of the Hindi version of the original Constitution was done by Shri Vasant Krishan Vaidya and elegantly decorated and illuminated by Shri Nand Lal Bose. Later, the Prime minister, Shri Vajpayee released the calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India in Hindi and also addressed the gathering.

Excerpts from the historic speeches of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were then relayed along with the visuals.

After that, the Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, requested the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant to release the Special Commemorative Stamp designed by the eminent cartoonist, Shri Ranga and brought out by the Ministry of Communications to mark the 50th Anniversary of our Republic. The Special Commemorative Stamp was then released by the Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant who subsequently addressed the gathering.

Thereafter, the National Song *Vande Mataram* was sung by Smt. Sudha Raghunathan, a renowned classical singer and Shri Hariharan, a versatile vocalist.

The Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Ananth Kumar then requested the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, to release an album of *Jana Gana Mana* comprising VCD/CD and a booklet brought out by the Department of Culture. Thereafter, the album of *Jana Gana mana* was released by the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan who also addressed the gathering.

The function concluded with the singing of the National Anthem by a group of music maestros. The entire programme was telecast and broadcast live throughout the nation.

On this occasion a booklet titled *50th Anniversary of the Republic of India–Select Proceedings of the Constituent Assembly relating to the Adoption and Signing of the Constitution* was also brought out by the Library and

Reference, Research Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses by the dignitaries at the function.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Respected Upa-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Pradhan Mantriji, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider it a distinct honour to be here to welcome you all on this historic occasion. May I take this opportunity to express our thanks to Respected *Rashtrapatiji, Upa-Rashtrapatiji* and *Pradhan Mantriji* and other distinguished guests for being with us this morning. Our thanks are also due to the Ministers of Home Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Communications, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports and Information and Broadcasting and to the Leaders of Opposition in Parliament, my fellow Presiding Officers in both the Houses, and to the Leaders of various Parties and Groups in Parliament for all their cooperation in organising this function today.

It is indeed a moment of pride for all of us I would say, another milestone, in the long march of the nation. Fifty years ago, on 24 January 1950, this majestic Hall of our Parliament was witness to a very unique and historic occasion. It was here, on that day, that the members of the first sovereign representative body of the people of free India, a whole generation of our nation's leadership, represented in the Constituent Assembly, appended their signatures to the newly-drafted Constitution for India. Two days later, this Constitution came into force and India thus formally declared itself to be a Republic. That meant the culmination of a process set in motion on the 9th of December 1946, when the Constituent Assembly first met in this very Hall to deliberate on the task of drafting a Constitution for Free India.

The deliberations of the Constituent Assembly are now an integral part of the history of our country. The members of that Assembly were united in their purpose to provide for the whole country the basic philosophy and the institutional framework which were to guide its socio-economic and political life in the days to come. The Constitution of India, the fundamental law of the land, was the final result of the nearly three years' dedicated labour of that august Assembly.

Today we have a duty and moral obligation to pay our respectful

homage to that generation of our nation's leadership—our real pathfinders—whose sagacity, vision, imagination and collective wisdom had gone into the making of our Constitution and into the creation of a new Republic. It was their lot to toil for our Freedom, making innumerable sacrifices, and later to lay the foundations of a new Republic.

In the early years of the Indian Republic, it was a challenge before the national leadership to come up with a viable system of government. Through the collective efforts of the leaders and the people, we have met that challenge effectively. Today, having successfully gone through thirteen General Elections and numerous elections to the State Legislatures and local bodies and having experienced fairly stable political life for over fifty years, we can be legitimately proud of the viability and acceptability of the institutions created by our Constitution and about our own ability to work a democratic system in the country.

We cannot, however, afford to be complacent about these achievements of the past fifty years. There are still very many serious challenges before us. We have to go a long way in achieving the kind of socio-economic progress our Founding Fathers had visualised for the country, in 'wiping away the tears' of the poor, as Mahatma Gandhi had dreamt; in making 'our political democracy a social democracy as well', and promoting a way of life which recognises liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life, as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had envisioned; and in bringing about the 'emotional integration' of the diverse people of our country, as Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had visualised for us. Striving earnestly towards the realisation of the lofty vision of our Founding Fathers is our collective responsibility.

Today, on this historic occasion, let us all resolve once again to live up to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution and to be ever vigilant to guard the Republic, its Constitution and the institutions created by it.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Upa-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Yesterday India celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Republic Day. Today we have gathered here to commemorate this historic occasion. Fifty years ago, in this very Hall, our Constitution was adopted.

That event was a culmination of our people's long suppressed as-

piration for freedom; of an arduous, protracted struggle for self-governance.

The journey of the creation of our Constitution has closely paralleled the journey of our Freedom Movement in the early half of the last century.

Members will recall the 'Commonwealth of India Bill', prepared by Indians in 1924, was an important initial milestone. This was followed by the preparation of the 'Swaraj Constitution'. A new dimension was added to that effort with the Fundamental Rights Declaration in 1931.

Following many ups and downs, the Non-Party Conference prepared a comprehensive Constitutional scheme in 1944-45. Unfortunately, that was nipped in the bud. At last, the Constituent Assembly was set up.

Thereupon, the Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly prepared the Draft Constitution. The Draft was subjected to a clause-by-clause consideration in Committees–headed by Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, and other luminaries.

From the discussions in the Drafting Committee headed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar to the deliberations–as intense as they were intensive–in the Constituent Assembly as a whole, it was one unbroken quest for perfection.

Indeed, it was a saga. Even as they were being lashed by riots, killings, oppression and imprisonment, our leaders kept at the task decade after decade.

To read the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly and its Committees even today, even after 50 years, is to be overwhelmed by:

* The earnestness with which they approached the task;
* The insight they brought to bear on each Article;
* The farsightedness with which they anticipated the situations and problems that were likely to arise;
* The singular touchstone by which they judged every provision—always guided by the interest of our country and our people;
* How, engulfed as they were by the aftermath of Partition, by riots, by an invasion, by the urgent task of integrating the States–how they would abstract themselves from this tumult, gather in this very Hall, and weigh, and deliberate, and fashion, and refashion, clause after clause.

We are beneficiaries of their sacrifices: we would never forget that.

We are heirs to that legacy—of exclusive, overarching devotion to the national interest; of reasoned, civil discourse; of harmonising disparate views.

We should never forget that.

There is one great test for a Constitution, for any system of governance. It must deliver and it must be durable.

Our Constitution has stood this test. And one reason it has been able to do so is that it embodies a masterly balance: between the rights of the individual and the requirements of collective life; between the States and the Union; between providing a robust structure and flexibility.

Our Constitution has served the needs of both India's diversity and her innate unity. It has strengthened India's democratic traditions.

But even in the mightiest fort one has to repair the parapet from time to time, one has to clean the moat and check the banisters. The same is true about our Constitution.

Five decades after the adoption of the Constitution, India is faced with a new situation. The need for stability, both at the Centre and in the States, has been felt acutely.

The people are impatient for faster socio-economic development. The country is also faced with a pressing challenge to quickly remove regional and social imbalances by reorienting the development process–to benefit the poorest and the weakest.

That is the purpose for which a Commission to review the Constitution is proposed to be set up. The basic structure and the core ideals of our Constitution, however, will remain inviolate.

Let us not forget that in the end a Constitution is only as good as the ones who work the institutions which it has set up.

Participating in the Constituent Assembly debates, Dr. Ambedkar had said:

"I feel however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot. The Constitution can provide only the organs of State such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depend are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics."

There is widespread apprehension today that our institutions are not working as the Constitution intends, that the conduct of those of us who run them is not what the proper functioning of those institutions requires.

Let this be our resolve today:

- We shall leave institutions—above all, our Parliament and our State Legislature—for the coming generation in a condition vastly better than the condition in which we found them;
- In discharging our duties in them, our conduct will be such as would have done the Founding Fathers proud.

That would be a fitting way to repay our debt to them. That would be the one tribute worthy of them.

Thank you.

ADDRESS* BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, SHRI KRISHAN KANT

Honourable President, Shri Narayanan, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi, Friends and Distinguished Guests:

The postal stamp brought out and released today by the Union Postal Department to mark the Golden Jubilee of Indian Republic, brings to surface a unique truth about our history, geography and culture. The outlines of Gandhiji's body and India's geography merge into each other.

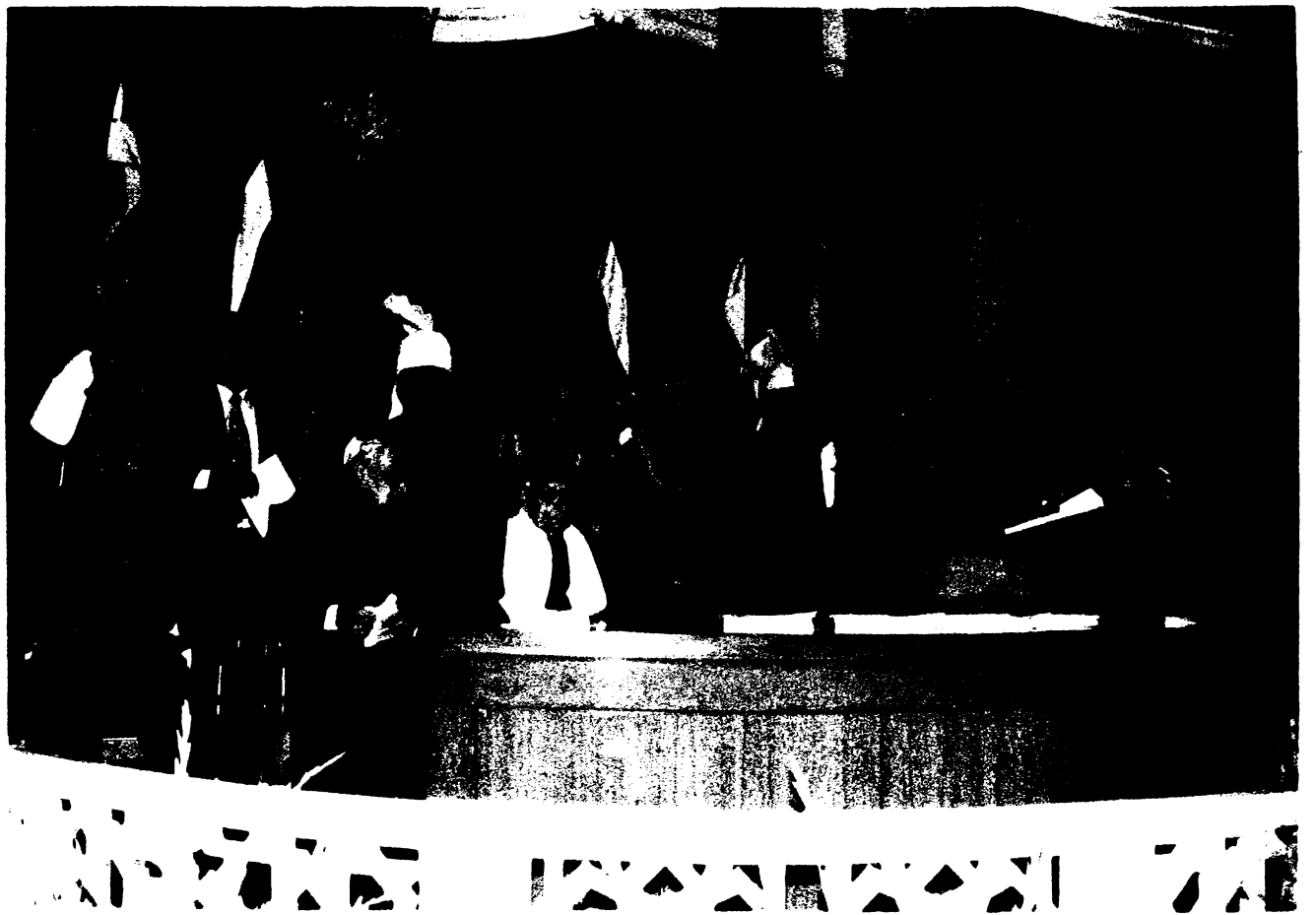
Gandhi was India. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose called him the Father of the Nation. Gandhi is India and will remain India. The soul of India found utterance through his very breath. As Gandhi himself said, "I will not escape to the Himalayas leaving the people behind. I will continue to speak even from my grave."

We may ask why is the Republic Day observed on 26 January, while the Constitution was signed by the members of the Constituent Assembly earlier, on 26 November, 1949. This is because, 26 January is a milestone in the history of India's National Movement.

On 31 December, 1929, at Lahore Congress, in the Punjab Kesri Lala Lajpat Rai Nagar, Gandhiji had the resolution for *Poorna Swaraja* passed by the Congress, in which the demand for dominion status was given up in favour of our resolve for marching towards full freedom. In

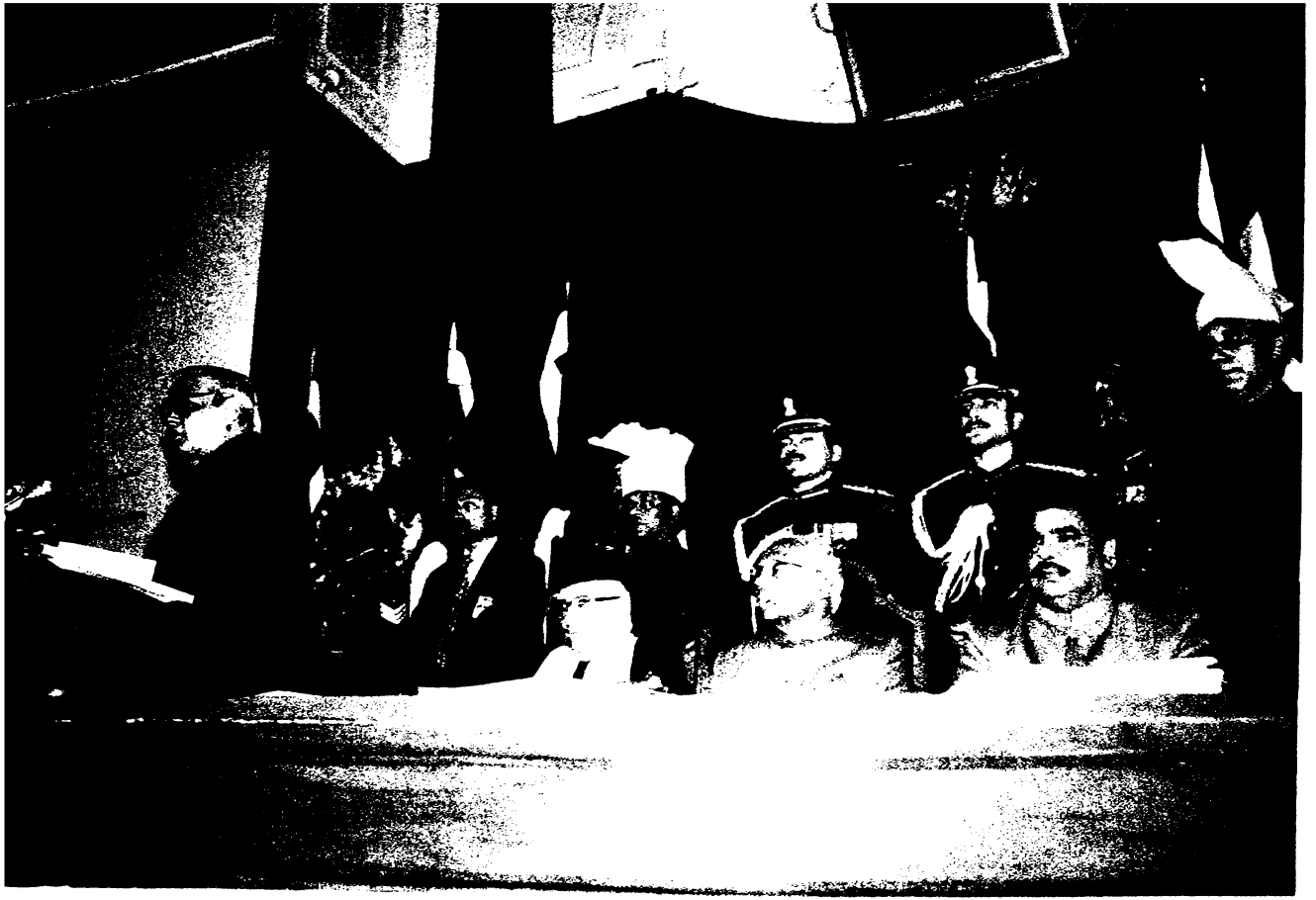
* Originally delivered in Hindi

The President of India. Shri K.R. Narayanan arriving in procession at the function to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of India, 27 January 2000



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi addressing the distinguished gathering

The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee releasing the calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India in Hindi



The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressing the gathering

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha,
Shri Krishan Kant releasing the Special Commemorative Stamp

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant, addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan releasing an album of *Jana Gana Mana* comprising VCD/CD and a booklet

The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressing the distinguished gathering.
Also seen in the picture are L to R. the Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan,
the Prime minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant, the Speaker,
Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Ananth Kumar

Smt. Sudha Raghunathan, a renowned classical singer and Shri Hariharan, a versatile vocalist rendering the National Song *Vande Mataram*

A group of music maestros rendered the National Anthem *Jana Gana Mana*

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, felicitating Shri Vasant Krishan Vaidya who calligraphed the Hindi version of the original Constitution of India

the midnight of the same day, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, unfurled the tri-color on the banks of Ravi and tossed the fragrance of the resolve of '*Poorna Swaraja*' in the nation's emotional atmosphere. From that year onwards the people of India repeated the Pledge, prepared by Gandhiji, each year on 26 January, till we attained Independence. On 26 January, 1930, in Punjab and several parts of the country, a patriotic song was sung. It read:

When Jawaharlal Unfurled
The flag on the Ravi bank.
"We must become free"
He proclaimed.
The people of India and Punjab
Took this oath collectively
"We will embrace the gallows
With the song of the nation on our lips
We may lose our life
But will never renege on our promise"

The practice of not taxing common salt traces its origin to this chapter of our National Movement. Gandhiji had been forcefully speaking since *1908—Hind Swaraj* days—against levying tax on common salt, which was a primary necessity of the Indian people. Gandhiji gave a call for the *Salt Satyagraha* from the 12 march, 1930, and himself embarked on the *Dandi March,* which shook the foundations of the British rule in India. It was a fight of right against might in a non-violent manner. This thought was there in the mind of Gandhiji right from 26 January, the day of pledge and he wrote to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about it. Pandit Motilal Nehru likened the *Dandi March* to Lord Shri Rama's triumphant journey to Lanka. Subhash Chandra Bose compared it with Napoleon's Paris expedition. Bapu called it equivalent to a pilgrimage to Badrinath and Kedarnath. All these programmes drew their inspiration from the Pledge drafted by Gandhiji for the 26 January, which day we have sanctified now as our Republic Day—then called Independence Day.

The Fundamental Rights, which are the keystone of our Republic, were passed by the Karachi Congress Session in 1931 as moved by Gandhiji.At that time twenty points were mentioned. Some of the points mentioned therein were for India of the future and are now included in our Constitution as the Directive Principles. At the Karachi Session of

the Congress, Gandhiji had moved the Resolution on Basic Rights, which also included the neutrality of the state between Faiths. Our Constitution reflects this spirit in its provisions. Poet Nazir Banarasi has sensitively portrayed that spirit of love and goodwill among people in his poem on Gandhiji called "The Old Gardener"....

Human relations are far superior
To the relations of faith;
In life and in death, O' friend
It is good to be together.
We may lose our life but, O'friend
Let us not lose our relations.
The flowers strung together
In the garland
By the Old Gardener
Should not be allowed to break.

Let us take the pledge today that we will never allow this garland of flowers, strung together by Gandhiji, to be broken.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN

Honourable Vice-President of India, Honourable Prime Minister of India, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It gives me great pleasure to be here amidst you at this solemn function to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the birth of the Indian Republic and commencement of our Constitution. The establishment of the sovereign, democratic Republic of India was obviously, a significant and glorious event for India, for the freedom and welfare of the hundreds and millions of its people. But it was also a world event of far-reaching significance. People talk about the triumph of democracy in the world against other forms of Government. For that triumphal outcome, democracy in India has had a meaningful part to play not in the way of taking part in the ideological Cold War, but in the sense of setting an example, overpowering example to the world.

What Sir Anthony Eden, the Prime Minister of Britain, said at the time of the emergence of Indian Republic is relevant in this context. He said, "Of all the experiments in government, which have been attempted

since the beginning of time. I believe that the Indian venture into parliamentary government is the most exciting. A vast sub-continent is attempting to apply to its tens and thousands of millions a system of free democracy..... It is a brave thing to do so. The Indian venture is not a pale imitation of our practice at home, but a magnified and multiplied reproduction on a scale we have never dreamt of. If it succeeds, its influence on Asia is incalculable for good. Whatever the outcome, we must honour those who attempt it."

Even more meaningful was the opinion expressed by an American Constitutional authority, Prof. Granville Austin who wrote that, what the Indian Constituent Assembly began was "perhaps the greatest political venture since that originated in Philadelphia in 1787."

Mahatma Gandhi had visualized the new Constitution of India in terms of universal values applied to the specific and special conditions of India. As early as 1931, he had written:

> "I shall strive for a Constitution which will release India from thraldom and patronage. I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice: an India in which there is no high class or low class of people, an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability. We shall be at peace with the rest of the world neither exploiting nor exploited. All interests not in conflict with the interests of the dumb millions will be scrupulously respected whether foreign or indigenous. Personally, I hate the distinction between foreign and indigenous. This is the India of my dreams for which I shall struggle."

At the core of our Constitution lies the essence of this Gandhian dream in the form of social justice and social democracy. Prof. Granville Austin has described the Indian Constitution as, "first and foremost a social document". He further explained that, "the majority of India's constitutional provisions are either directly arrived at furthering the aim of social revolution or attempt to foster this revolution by establishing conditions necessary for its achievement." The very same point was elaborated in eloquent terms by Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Nehru. What makes our Constitution relevant to the conditions and the problems of India and the developing world as a whole is, in fact, the socio-economic soul of it. Its uniqueness is that it has combined this harmoniously with the liberal rights and freedoms as conceived by the Western democracies.

It is after deep thought and considerable debate that the Founding

Fathers adopted the philosophy and the form of Government for India. Speaking on the draft Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar claimed that, "It is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peace time and in war time. Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is that Man is vile". Today when there is so much talk about revising the Constitution or even writing a new Constitution, we have to consider whether it is the Constitution that has failed us or whether it is we who have failed the Constitution. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as President of the Constituent Assembly, had pointed out, "If the people who are elected are capable men of character and integrity, they should be able to make the best of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country". I believe these are wise words which we should pay heed to.

The form of Government, the parliamentary democratic form, was chosen by the Founding Fathers after deep thought and debate. In the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ambedkar explained that the Drafting Committee, in choosing the parliamentary system for India, preferred more responsibility to more stability, a system under which the Government will be on the anvil every day. He said that accountability was still difficult to obtain from day to day. Thus, the parliamentary system was a deliberate and well-thought out choice of the Constituent Assembly. It was not chosen in imitation of the British system or because of the familiarity with it that India had acquired during the colonial period. Gandhiji while acknowledging our debt to Britain with regard to parliamentary Government had observed that the roots of it were present in India in the age-old system of the village panchayats. Dr. Ambedkar explained in the Constituent Assembly that the Buddhist *Sanghas* were parliamentary type of institutions and that in their functioning, modern parliamentary devices like resolutions, divisions, whips, etc. were used. These elements in our heritage made it possible and easy for India to adopt the parliamentary system of democracy. Besides, as Dr. Ambedkar told the Constituent Assembly, this system was chosen because they preferred more responsibility to stability. Another factor to be borne in mind is the immensity of India, the perplexing variety and diversity of the country, the very size of its population and the complexity of its social and developmental problems. In such a predicament, described by one writer as one of "a million mutinies", there must in the body politic be a vent for discontents and frustrations to express themselves in order to forestall and prevent major explosions in society. The parliamentary system provides this vent more than a system which prefers

stability to responsibility and accountability. Our recent experience of instability in Government is perhaps no sufficient reason to discard the parliamentary system in favour of the Presidential or any other form. In my opinion we should avoid too much rigidity in our system of government, as in a very rigid system there is the danger of major explosions in society taking place. The possibility and the facility of a change in government is in itself a factor in the stability of the political system in the long run because then the people will be more inclined to tolerate a political situation they do not approve of or find difficult to cope with for long. At any rate, as Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, the shortcomings in the people entrusted with running the Government cannot be obviated by constitutional changes or provisions.

Amendments to the Constitution are a different matter. The Founding Fathers deliberately made the amendment process of the Constitution easy so that the shortcomings and lacunae in the Constitution can be rectified by the Parliament without too much difficulty. There are other changes that can be brought about, like changes in the electoral law or the functioning of the political parties. Whatever we may do, and we have a right to bring about necessary changes in the political and economic system, we should ensure that the basic philosophy behind the Constitution and the fundamental socio-economic soul of the Constitution remain sacrosanct. We should not throw out the baby with the bath water and like the tragic character Othello in Shakespeare has to lament later "Like the base Indian, threw a pearl away—Richer than all this tribe".

Jai Hind.

ADDRESSES AT THE CONFERMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN AWARDS 1997 AND 1998

A function to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 1997 and 1998 on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, member, Rajya Sabha and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, member, Lok Sabha, respectively, was held on 17 December 1999 in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant presented the Awards to Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Jaipal Reddy. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra read out the Citations in respect of the Outstanding Parliamentarians. The function was addressed by the Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

Honourable Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Honourable Ministers, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Honourable Members of Parliament, Shri Jaipal, Distinguished Dignitaries and Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this function to present the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for 1997 and 1998, sponsored by the Indian Parliamentary Group, to Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, respectively, I am grateful to the Honourable Vice-President for having consented to present the Awards and address this august audience. I am also thankful to the Honourable Prime Minister for gracing this function and agreeing to address this distinguished gathering.

I am sure, it is a matter of immense satisfaction for all concerned that the Award is being given to two parliamentarians of great eminence who have enriched the discipline of parliamentary political science with their notable contributions in the House and outside.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee who gets the Award for 1997 is a charming and soft-spoken gentleman who has brought a quiet respect for politics through his clear and simple analysis and intellectual understanding of the issues before the nation. He is known for scholarly precision and perfection of his parliamentary work, both as member and Minister alike. Pranab *da* is a prolific writer too.

Shri Jaipal Reddy who gets the Award for 1998 is known for his quick repartee, sharp wit and deep wisdom which endear him to one and all. Even during his university days, Shri Jaipal Reddy exhibited all leadership qualities despite his physical disability which never came in his way of effective functioning. Groomed in the intellectual tradition of free thinking, Jaipal Reddy distinguished himself as a member in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. The experience gained there stood him in good stead in attaining a rare distinction in Parliament with his unmatched eloquence, aided by a sharp intellect that can analyse even the toughest issue with a quiet ease. His command over the language and elegance with which he speaks make him the envy of the best of speakers.

Both the Awardees have seen ups and downs in their political careers but never lost respect for parliamentary traditions. Whether on the Treasury Benches or in the Opposition, they have always strived to raise the level of debate in the House by logical presentation of their views with forceful arguments on the subject under discussion. They always abide by the Chair even if at times they may not entirely agree with its rulings. In this, they would always remain shining examples, worthy of emulation by the younger members. In these times when there is an impression that parliamentary standards are on the decline, the presence of stalwarts like Pranab Mukherjee and Jaipal Reddy is indeed reassuring.

Pranab *da* and Reddy *garu* held Ministerial positions in the Government with distinction and continue to play significant roles in national politics. All though, they have endeavoured to provide an able leadership and efficient management of the men and matters they dealt with. Shri Pranab Mukherjee's expertise in economic and financial matters is acclaimed nationally and internationally and he has the rare distinction of being rated one of the best five Finance Ministers of the World in 1984. Shri Jaipal Reddy's interaction with the media is an occasion celebrated by every journalist and as an articulate spokesman, he always excels. He can speak eloquently on any subject with equal ease and keep his audience captive. If there is any politician who has always come out of the tricky job of briefing the media with success, it is undoubtedly Shri Reddy.

After half a century of our experiment with parliamentary democracy today we are at the crossroads of political history, even as we are entering a new millennium. Our politics is getting increasingly polarised and our institutions are getting increasingly politicised. All this makes it difficult to see issues except through a thick political fog and the view is too hazy to give us any clear picture of the reality. Under such circumstances, we need the able guidance of wise men who can see issues as they are, analyse them dispassionately, even if differently, and give us a clear picture. Such men are not available in plenty and the few we find need to be felicitated, not because they need it, but for our own sake.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Jaipal Reddy are two such men who have enriched our national life, parliamentary institutions and political traditions with their wide and varied contributions in public life. Therefore, it is only appropriate that they are being conferred today with the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award. This is just another feather in their cap. They are doing us an honour by accepting it and enhancing its dignity by receiving it. By conferring this honour on them, we are recording for future generations our appreciation of their perspective and philosophy and their endeavours to strengthen parliamentary processes, democratic traditions and political values in public life.

I congratulate the Indian Parliamentary Group on its wise choice and I commend the recipients for the honour they have done to the IPG. It is our fond hope that traditions such as this will go a long way in instilling certain basic values in the minds of the people involved in public life in order to uphold the dignity of institutions and promote the spirit of democracy and probity, which are so essential to strengthen our social fabric and political resolve to build a brave new India.

Thank you.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 1997 on Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi addressing the gathering

Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressing the gathering

The Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha,
Shri Krishan Kant conferring the Award on Shri S. Jaipal Reddy

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy addressing the gathering

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha,
Shri Krishan Kant delivering his address

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra reading out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 1997

PRESENTED

TO

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, M.P.

BY

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE has been in the limelight of national politics for over three decades. All through these eventful years', he has impressed the nation and the people with his intellectual prowess, courage of conviction and political sagacity. His has been a multifaceted personality—an original thinker, a visionary leader, an eminent economist and a front-ranking political leader.

Ever since he entered the portals of Parliament in 1969, SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE has served the Institution in various capacities, in the process lending his rich and varied expertise towards strengthening the foundations of democracy. His parliamentary career has been marked by a deep regard and profound respect for the Legislature's traditions and conventions. He has consciously endeavoured to uphold the dignity and decorum of Parliament and always stressed the need for a healthy and vibrant Opposition. An embodiment of the best traditions of parliamentary democracy as it has evolved in our country, he is held in high esteem for his intrinsic strength and extraordinary commonsense and wisdom. His deep understanding of the operational dynamics of the parliamentary polity, unwavering commitment to the basic tenets of healthy political pluralism and thorough grasp of the rules and procedures of the Houses of Parliament have facilitated his wide acceptance as a parliamentarian *non pareil.*

During his long innings in the political life of the nation, SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE has played a leading role in shaping appropriate responses to various momentous events and grave crises before its polity, economy and society at large. Suave and soft-spoken but firm and unflinching in his beliefs and principles, he has espoused the national cause in various international fora with a rare finesse and singular aplomb. His reasoned thoughts and cogent arguments on diverse issues have earned him wide approbation from far and wide. As Union Cabinet Minister holding key portfolios and also occupying crucial decision-making positions at the national level, he played a signal role in laying down policies and in actualizing formidable objectives.

A celebrated parliamentarian that he is, conscientiously and ceaselessly striving to fulfil the varied roles expected of a committed representative of the people, it is only befitting that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 1997, on SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE.

Indian Parliamentary Group,
Parliament House,
New Delhi
December 17, 1999
Agrahayana 26, 1921 (Saka)

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant then Conferred the Award on Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

ADDRESS BY SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Speaker, Shri Jaipal Reddy and my fellow parliamentarians:

I express my gratitude to the Indian Parliamentary Group for conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award on me for the year, 1997. I accept this distinction with humility. I feel proud and privileged to be associated with the galaxy of distinguished parliamentarians like Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Somnath Chatterjee who were selected for this award in the past.

The Parliament of India is a unique institution which not only functions as the Sovereign Legislature of India but also represents the aspirations of millions of people of this great country. When we enter the portals of this temple of democracy, we become the chosen servants of our people. Debating skills, command over language, mastery over facts, ready wit are all qualities to be a good member of Parliament. But more important than that is the commitment to the cause of the people and the devotion with which we serve that cause.

That the members of the Selection Committee had chosen me for this honour overwhelms me and I thank them for their generosity and kindness. In parliamentary democracy, governance is through the process of consent. The Executive requires the approval of Parliament for its actions and is accountable to the people through Parliament. Therefore, every member of Parliament has to give parliamentary work overriding priority over other business. People elect their representatives to voice their concerns not only on general issues but also on issues relating to their constituencies. It is not possible to solve the individual problems of every constituent but the common problems of the constituency have to be taken up for redressal. The political Executive and members must discharge their responsibilities.

Legislation and taxation are two major jobs of Parliament. Under our scheme of things, the Executive is totally dependent on Parliament, specially the Lok Sabha, on all matters relating to money and finance. The Executive cannot impose a levy or collect any tax, incur any expenditure or withdraw any money from the Consolidated Fund of India without the approval of Parliament. No law can be made by the Executive without the consent of Parliament. Therefore, parliamentarians must

devote time and undertake their work with utmost seriousness. It is unfortunate that the role of Parliament in these matters has been diluted. It is not a healthy trend. In the early years, nearly two-thirds of the total time of Parliament was spent on legislation and Budget. But nowadays, not more than one-third of the total time is spent on these issues. This trend must be reversed.

With the introduction of the Parliamentary Standing Committee system, the scrutiny of Expenditure and Budget of various Departments have improved but the system requires to be made more effective. The time of Parliament must not be wasted on frivolous issues and disruption of parliamentary work should be avoided scrupulously. Interruptions and interventions permitted in parliamentary debate must be done in a dignified manner. Strict adherence to the rules framed for the conduct of orderly business in the House must be ensured. In this connection, we should observe in letter and spirit the declaration which we ourselves adopted in the Special Session held to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence.

Before concluding, I again thank the Selection Committee for bestowing this honour on me. It marks a high point in my quarter century stay in Parliament, specially so as it is for the first time this honour is being conferred on a serving member of the Rajya Sabha. This will inspire me to give my best to this august institution in the years to come.

Thank you,

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, then read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 1998 on Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 1998

PRESENTED

TO

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY, M.P.

BY

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY has had a long and distinguished career in public affairs and as an outstanding representative of the people. He has been a member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly for four terms and a member of Parliament almost continuously since 1984. A man of profound sensitivity and courage of convictions, Shri Reddy has never missed an opportunity to articulate the genuine hopes and aspirations of the masses, particularly the agriculturists and the weaker sections of the society.

Ever since he was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1984, SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY has made a meaningful contribution towards strengthening our parliamentary system. He has an abiding faith in the efficacy of parliamentary democracy which, for him, is an instrument of social and economic change. He has brought to bear upon his parliamentary career his keen interest and abundant experience in a wide range of fields and scholarly pursuits. Encompassing all these is his deep commitment for the socio-economic transformation of Indian society through the elimination of inequality, injustice and impoverishment. He has also endeavoured ceaselessly to invest politics with lofty principles and ennobling standards.

A forceful orator and an articulate champion of healthy parliamentary traditions, SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY'S compelling and convincing expositions on diverse subjects have enriched and enlivened the proceedings of Parliament and through his informed, expert and active participation, he has upheld and advanced the public interest on varied issues on many occasions. He has been a staunch votary of a national vision unencumbered by any narrow sectional, regional or sectarian interests. His thorough understanding of rules and procedure of Parliament and his innate respect for the dignity of the supreme institution of the land are indeed worthy of emulation. His speeches in the Houses of Parliament are characterised not only by the depth of subject knowledge and incisive intellect, but are also laced with dignified humour. For some years past, SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY has been widely acknowledged as one of the tallest and strongest pillars of our Parliament. Be it as a Leader of the Opposition or as a member of Treasury Benches, his has been a presence held in high esteem by fellow parliamentarians. It is but natural that he is listened to with rapt attention and utmost respect even by his political opponents.

Given his national stature, parliamentary experience and notable contributions to parliamentary proceedings and public life, it is only appropriate that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 1998 on SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY.

Indian Parliamentary Group,
Parliament House, New Delhi.
December 17, 1999
Agrahayana 26, 1921 (Saka)

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant then Conferred the Award on Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

ADDRESS BY SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY

Honourable Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kantji, Honourable Prime Minister Shri Atalji, our Honourable Speaker, Shri Balayogiji and Distinguished Colleagues :

The conferment of this coveted award has given me immense joy, what is more, immense job satisfaction. As a parliamentarian, I could not have asked for more. It has also given me some kind of trepidation. I have been amongst a more docile members of the Parliament. I am afraid, I will be further domesticated by this award. I hope and trust, the Treasury Benches will not try to tame me with the flaunting of this Award.

The Honourable Speaker has kindly referred to my physical disability. May I hasten to add that in my own career I have found my political non-conformity a greater handicap than physical deformity. It shall be my endeavour to utilise this Award not as one of the laurels to put on, nor as one of the oars to rest on, but as one of the spurs to move on.

This Parliament of ours is a big brain stormer. It is a great shock absorber. No one is equipped with such encyclopaedic erudition as to give more than what he can take from Parliament. It imparts two great virtues: one, intellectual modesty; the second, ideological moderation. All of us who come with our respective tunnel-vision to Parliament, go back with horizons broadened, with vision expanded. It was Shakespeare in *Hamlet* who said, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy".

The truth of this profound epistemological statement is hammered home everyday in Parliament when you encounter people who are more learned, more articulate, more erudite than yourself. Friends, I have found life beyond 'Zero Hour', which witnesses the din of partisan contention; I have found life not only to be voluminous but also to be luminous.

I am sure this life beyond Zero Hour can be made even more luminous if only the proceedings of post-Zero Hour are better reported. The image of a Parliament can go up with better reporting, I feel.

I do not like to take more of your time. I am indeed grateful to everyone concerned. I hope I will not allow myself to be tamed by the Award.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Respected Uprashtrapatiji, Honourable Speaker, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy and my Distinguished Colleagues in Parliament:

We have gathered here to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian of the Year Award on Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, both of whom richly deserve this distinction. To recognise the honour and talent in both Houses of Parliament irrespective of party affiliations shows that the vibrancy of our parliamentary system reflects our commitment to democracy. This is all the more so at a time when democratic structures and parliamentary systems are facing crisis in some countries.

Friends, Parliament is the corner-stone of our Republic that will complete fifty years next month. What makes it more relevant is that it offers a platform for both Government and the Opposition to debate national issues. Parliament can also be a powerful instrument to forge consensus and cooperation. I have always held that governance, specially in a country as large and diverse as ours, is more than a question of parliamentary arithmetic. Effective governance is possible when Government and the Opposition work together to make parliamentary democracy a success.

Our Parliament has a tradition of informed, but at times heated debates. It is this debate that often helps Government to rectify and refine its policies. But no matter how heated the debate or how divergent the views of the Government and the Opposition are, the dignity and decorum need to be maintained. Otherwise Parliament cannot fulfil its role. Shri Mukherjee and Shri Reddy are two parliamentarians who have sat on both Treasury and Opposition benches. Irrespective of which bench they have sat on, they have participated in debates in their own inimitable styles. Shri Mukherjee is professorial, Shri Reddy is never at a loss for wit and humour. Both, however, come well informed, both can on occasions use barb with deadly effect, but rare is the occasion when they have not raised the level of parliamentary debate in which they have participated. Their reasoned arguments had helped members get a better understanding of the issues involved. Government too stands to gain from their contributions.

I have known Shri Mukherjee for many years. His vast experience

in Government gives him an advantage which, I must say, he puts to good use now that he is in the Opposition. With nearly three decades of parliamentary experience to his credit, Shri Mukherjee enriches the Rajya Sabha with his presence. He richly deserves the Outstanding Parliamentarian of the Year Award for 1997.

Shri Jaipal Reddy is one of our younger colleagues having made his Parliament debut in 1984. It is indeed a fitting tribute to his skills as a parliamentarian. In this relatively short span of fifteen years, he has been selected for this Award for 1998. Both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Reddy has demonstrated his ability to debate diverse issues with clarity, passion and wit. His robust interventions are ample evidence of the robust health of our Parliament.

I warmly congratulate him on being conferred this Award. I commend the Indian Parliamentary Group for instituting this Award. It is both in recognition of talent and an inspiration for others. Above all, it is a tribute to our parliamentary democracy.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, SHRI KRISHAN KANT

Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Honourable Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri Jaipal Reddy, the former Awardees and the Winners, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Honourable Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament, and Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are assembled here today to honour two of our distinguished colleagues, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Jaipal Reddy and to acknowledge their contributions to the Parliament and the nation. The epithet, 'Outstanding Parliamentarians' could not have been more appropriately applied. Pranab Babu, as he is affectionately known and, Jaipal ji, are outstanding, not in similar ways but in ways quite uniquely dissimilar.

It is an uncommon capacity of the parliamentary institutions to allow commonality and uniqueness to subsist and prosper at the same time. To a lay observer, parliamentary institutions may appear singularly unmanageable, even disorderly, but to an alert observer, Parliament demonstrates an extraordinary capacity for resolution of contradictions,

creation of common ground amidst conflicting ideologies and viewpoints. It is an outstanding reflecting surface for the nation's moods.

Most outstanding parliamentarians share an extraordinary sensitivity to the moods of the nation. They become the Parliament's lightning-rod to sensitise the nation's highest Legislature to the expectations and dreams of the millions whose mandate gives them their legitimacy.

Several commentators have spoken about the worldwide decline of the Parliament as a truly representative institution. It is argued that the representative form of the legislative institutions are not sufficiently representative as the hiatus between the people and the institutions has been progressively widening. It is this hiatus which weakens democracy and saps vitality and energy from the institutions. The outstanding among us–men and women of exceptional talent, wisdom and vision–help narrow this hiatus and prevent the acute divergence between the parliamentary institutions and the general will.

I remember the Parliament in the early years of India's Independence, when many members, both in the Government and the Opposition, were, what Pandit Nehru had called as the 'children of the Indian revolution'. There were those who sleep-walked through their tenures in Parliament. Many contributed only sporadically but there were also those who attracted the attention of the contemporary generation—of admirers and critics alike—through their outstanding work. The names of Acharya Kripalani, Shri Hiren Mukherjee, Prof. Ranga, Shri Nath Pal, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, Shri H.V. Kamath, Pandit Govind Ballab Pant, Babu Purushottam Das Tandon, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee naturally come to mind. Shri M.C. Chagla records in his autobiography that these parliamentarians and several others were exceptional by any standard of reckoning. He notes that the best parliamentary speakers were more in the Opposition Benches than in the Treasury. Prof. Hiren Mukherjee, a great parliamentarian himself, in his Memoirs, lavishes fulsome praise on many of his contemporaries. With their views and ideologies, he strongly differed and yet he deeply admired their work. He calls Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee, for whose ideology, Prof. Hiren Mukherjee had no compassion–the most accomplished of Indian parliamentarians.

The outstanding among the parliamentarians have their own distinguished way of making their mark. When we speak of Pranab Babu, the picture of a vastly experienced man, extremely well-read and well-versed in parliamentary business and practices, with a sharp eye for detail, readily comes to mind.

This picture emerges from how he is generally seen and heard in public and on the floor of Parliament. But there is another side of him which surfaces during small meetings, the likes of which the Presiding Officers often hold in their Chambers. In this, you see a Pranab Babu willingly offering his advice and his services to subserve the larger interests of parliamentary business, decorum and dignity. He effortlessly rises above narrow political considerations, without ever weakening the commitment to his Party and his ideology–the hallmark of a redoubtable parliamentarian.

Shri Jaipal Reddy has reasoned eloquence as his forte. Very often you hear his opponents attacking his position with the prefix, 'this is not the Jaipal Reddy we know'. It is said, reason is an intellectual's strength, as well as his weakness. But such is Shri Jaipal Reddy's personality that his opponents admire him regardless of whether they score a point against him or when he scores a point against them. His long innings in the politics of Andhra Pradesh has endowed his considerable qualities of mind with uncanny perceptions about the life in rural India.

Both Pranab Babu and Jaipal Reddy are no prisoners of dogma. They are pragmatic politicians, to whom the nation's interest is paramount. While they were in the Government, both were valued for their skills in administration and their capacity for innovative but pragmatic policies, as well as their power of persuading others to their own viewpoint.

I think one distinguishing mark of a great parliamentarian is that his or her point of view is appreciated even by those who differ with them. In Parliament, you soon come to realise that everything and its opposite is true. Democracy creates chasm between political beliefs and then, with equal ease, facilitates construction of a bridge over them. The Outstanding Parliamentarians, the exceptional public figures, are the keystones of the bridge-arch.

It is interesting that Outstanding Parliamentarians chose some very distinguished methods for making their presence felt. Shri S. Satyamoorthy, before Independence, specialised in asking supplementaries and was nicknamed 'Supplementary Satyamoorthy'. But his supplementaries were of one line or two lines, at the most. Shri Madhu Limaye made points of order a formidable weapon in his armoury. Shri H.V. Kamath became known for his 'amendments', prompting Prof. Hiren Mukherjee to draw

a comparison between Shri Kamath's idol, Netaji Bose and Shri Kamath himself in these words: "Some are born to shake empires and some to move amendments."

Indian Parliament has surprised even those with profound knowledge about the working of parliamentary institutions. There is a certain distinguishing uniqueness about the Indian Parliament which shapes the role of its leading members, in ways far different from other similar institutions elsewhere in the world. Perhaps, this uniqueness derives from the topical Indian trait of consensus and compromise in the interest of larger causes. Morris Jones, that fine observer of Indian Parliament, expressed bewilderment at the main Opposition Group in the early Parliament of India, being the essentially non-parliamentary Communist Party. Western observers were amazed, sometimes even dismayed, that the nation's highest Legislature never felt threatened by the streets. The Left and the Right would argue, differ, threaten and yet, when it came to the nation's larger interests, shook hands. It is people like Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Jaipal Reddy who give expression to our core value of consensus and co-existence in order to attain their compromise for larger objectives.

Lord Halifax once cynically observed that state business was a cruel trade and good nature was a bungler in it. In the Indian Parliament, good nature is never derided. On the contrary, it is admired and respected. Much of the respect which Shri Mukherjee and Shri Reddy receive from colleagues is for their outstanding qualities as human beings–honest, sympathetic, considerate and sincere. People with such qualities do not necessarily have to speak to be heard; the language of their silence at times is, in itself, sufficiently eloquent.

For the outstanding members, Parliament is an exceptional opportunity for service. They do not establish a dialogue with history but, as Nehru once said, are grateful for the opportunity to serve. Such parliamentarians shun grandiose posturing aimed at catching the next day's newspaper headlines. Their silent work does far more than the rabble-rousers' vituperation. One man who immediately comes to mind is Shri E.M.S. Namboodripad. He was rated as a force in legislative debates and exchanges, in spite of a life-long speech impairment.

These Outstanding Parliamentarians remind us that reason and temperance in speech are far more powerful and effective than decibel levels and aggressive mannerisms. A Hiren Mukherjee, a Kriplani, a

Dange or a Hirdaya Nath Kunzru could make themselves heard even when they never raised their voice beyond a decent level. Others could raise theirs and yet went unnoticed. Civility is a universally admired virtue.

I congratulate both my colleagues for receiving this distinction which shall be the last in this Millennium. May their example inspire us all.

3

ADDRESSES AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

An Orientation Programme for the new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was organised by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat from 8 to 16 December 1999. The Programme provided opportunities to members to discuss and analyze various aspects of parliamentary processes and procedures and familiarize themselves more closely with the operational mechanics of parliamentary institutions. The Programme consisted of interactive discussion sessions on topics of parliamentary interest. Discussion on each topic was initiated by experienced parliamentarians and other experts.

The Orientation Programme was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The inaugural function was also addressed by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri P.M. Sayeed and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, extended a Vote of Thanks.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries at the inaugural function.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI P.M. SAYEED

Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan, Members of Parliament, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Officers and Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, who is here with us to inaugurate this Orientation Programme which has been organized by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training for the newly-elected members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. I am also happy to welcome the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan, who is in our midst today. I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all the participants to this Course.

The idea behind organizing Orientation Programme for members of

Parliament and State Legislatures is to inculcate in them an appreciation of their role and position as representatives of the people and to familiarize them with the operational mechanics of parliamentary institutions. The objective is to expose the participants to parliamentary norms and traditions and provide them with an insight into the way our Parliament functions.

Friends, to my mind, it is indeed a privilege to be a representative of the people. The mandate that you and I have received from the people enjoins upon us to labour in concert and partnership in the cause of the progress and prosperity of the nation. We are, indeed, the trustees of the people of India and the custodians of its rich and varied heritage. It is our bounden duty to the millions of our countrymen to ceaselessly strive for their welfare and well-being.

My experience makes me realise that the lok Sabha is, without doubt, a miniature India. We see in this House, the visage of true India, the making of eternal India.

Consciously, you should cultivate the habit of hard work. Impeccable character, indomitable courage and incorruptible conduct should be your hallmarks. Besides, you have to have a thorough understanding of the Rules of Procedure, Conventions and Customs of the House; Directions from the Chair, Constitutional provisions, precedents and usages.

To be a parliamentarian is a challenging task. It is a bigger challenge to be a good parliamentarian. That is what we all have to strive for. This Programme is devised in such a way as to give you some useful tips to be an effective parliamentarian.

During the next nine days, you all will be getting an opportunity to benefit from the varied experiences and the enlightening views of eminent parliamentarians on different facets of our parliamentary system such as various parliamentary devices to raise issues on the floor of the House, the Committee system, parliamentary privileges, etc. We are confident that the participants will be greatly benefited by this Orientation Programme. By exchanging views among yourselves and also by interacting with senior and seasoned parliamentarians, you could be better equipped to perform your role as the representatives of the people of the largest democracy in the world.

With these words, I have great pleasure in extending once again a very warm welcome to all of you.

Thank you.

ADDRESS* BY THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Secretary-General and Friends :

I shall be brief in my speech on two counts. Firstly, I have to come again in your midst for the valedictory function and at that time, I won't feel the pressure of the presence of Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha as he won't be attending the valedictory function! At that time, I will present my views before you. Otherwise also, it will not be proper on my part to speak at length when I am in the presence of the Honourable Speaker and the Honourable Deputy Speaker. Hence, I am not inclined to make a long speech. I have not brought a written speech. During training what we have to keep in mind is that those persons who are occupying now the dais are the only ones who are entitled to read out from a written document in Parliament–the Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Ministers and Secretary-General are the only persons who can read out from a written document in Parliament. Members of Parliament are not expected to read out a written speech unless provided for under some rule.

At the commencement of the training programme, I would like to make two brief points. I believe that a good parliamentarian who leaves his impression in a matter of minutes has to make methodical preparation for hours, before he makes his speech in the House and generally we remain oblivious of the efforts put in by him. Training is an important requirement. Often, people tend to complain that there is only one such profession in our country, for which no qualification or training is required by the law and that is the 'profession' we are in. However, training is a must to emerge as a successful parliamentarian. Hence, if one aspires to be a successful parliamentarian, as Honourable Mr. Deputy Speaker said, besides having regard for rules, traditions and conventions, the entire gamut of our viewpoints and experiences which we have undergone in 23 hours should be compared into one hour's speech so as to leave an impression in the House. When I became a member of Parliament the biggest challenge that I faced was to be concise in my presentation. A leader does not face any problem in delivering speeches. It is easy to speak for hours outside the House but it is most difficult to cover all the points in minutes inside the House. This is the first skill that we have to master. We shall learn about other such skills in the next 10 days.

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* Originally delivered in Hindi

Generally, speeches delivered in the House are not exclusively for the benefit of those present in the House as they have their own viewpoints which may not change. Speeches are made in the House for the benefit of the entire nation. A good speech may be delivered in the House but if there is no substantial point worthy of being carried in the newspapers the next day, the speech remains restricted to 100 to 200 members seated in the House. The viewpoints of the member are not conveyed to his electorate or the people in other parts of the country. This is the most important skill required to be mastered in the next ten days and I hope that a provision would have been made in this training programme to teach this skill to the members. We should develop the habit of making our points in a couple of minutes and some such point should be made in these couple of minutes so that we may be in a position to make the headlines the next day. It may not be possible to get coverage in the front page always but getting coverage in the inner pages of the newspapers is the most difficult skill required to be mastered by the members. Some members resort to such tactics as tearing off the papers to make the headlines the next day. That is the shortcut to get publicity. I believe that such tactics do not work for long. We are here not as a members of a particular party or the ruling party. We are here in an individual capacity. It is an art to convey comprehensively and effectively points, in a matter of minutes, Casting a spell in the House, leaving an impression on those present in the Press Gallery so as to reach lakhs of people and utilise the media effectively. I hope that all of you will be successful in learning this art in the next ten days. Welcoming all of you, I extend my best wishes for this Training Programme.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

Honourable Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pramod Mahajan, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sayeed Saheb, Honourable Members of Parliament, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Officers and Staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat:

I am happy to be amidst you at this Orientation Programme being organised by our Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training. This Bureau is perhaps the only institution of its kind in the Commonwealth, imparting training to the representatives of the people and to senior governmental functionaries, at times even of other countries, in the nuances of parliamentary functioning. The Deputy Speaker, Shri Sayeed Saheb has already introduced you to the contents of this Orientation Programme. It is now my duty to formally open this week-long session.

I am sure, this Programme, where you will have the opportunity to benefit from the experiences of veteran parliamentarians, will go a long way in equipping you better in your duties and responsibilities as members of the august House of the People.

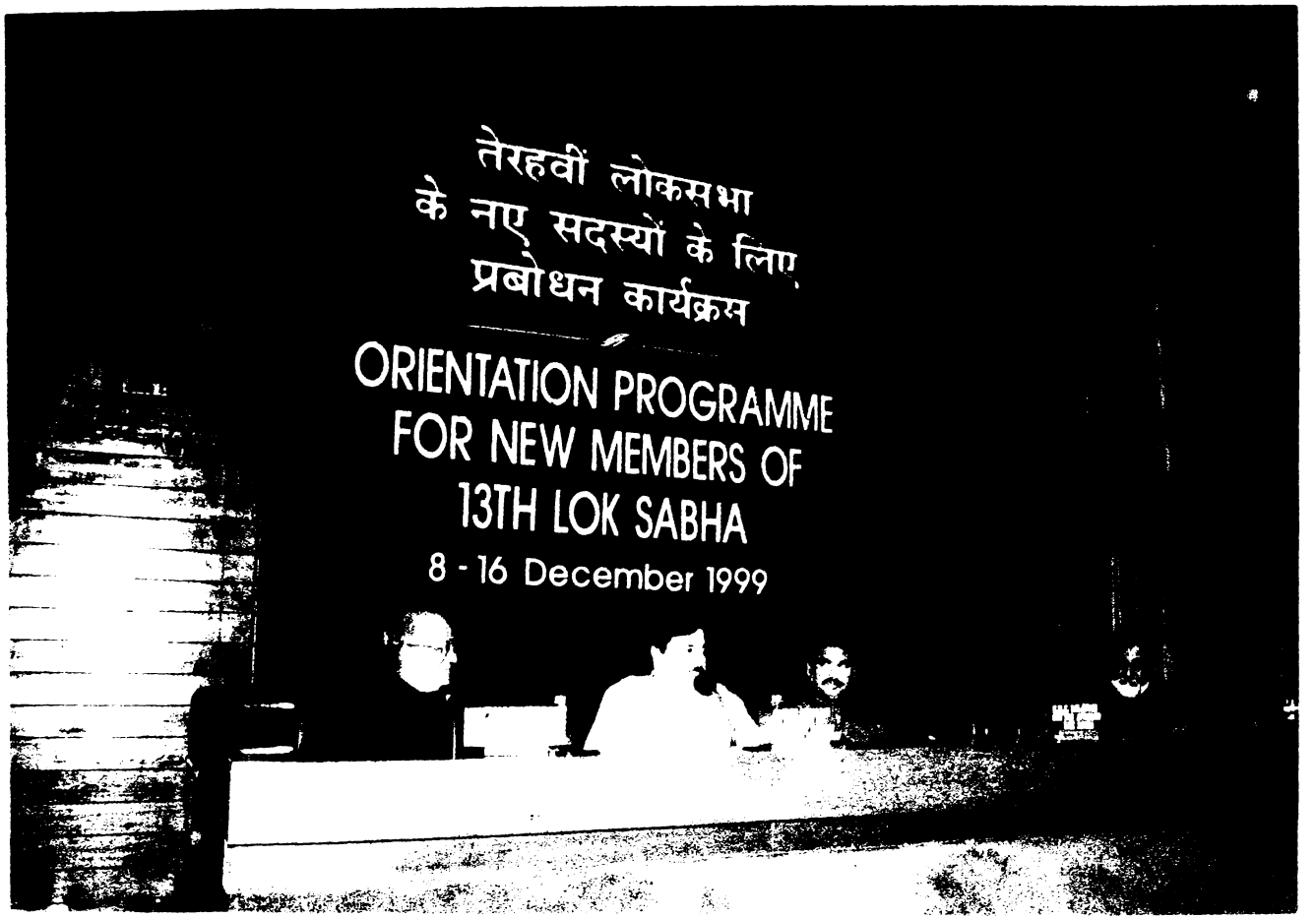
Only recently did we all come through the gigantic process of yet another General Election in the country. Through this election, once again, our people have reaffirmed their faith in parliamentary democracy and demonstrated to the world at large that democracy is here to stay and that democracy alone is acceptable to them. This is not a mean achievement by any standard, for a fifty-year-old Republic. When we see around us the flames of democracy flickering and fading too frequently, we all, as representatives of the people, can take legitimate pride in this.

Friends, it is definitely a privilege to be elected a representative of the people. Inherent in that privilege is a great responsibility to live up to the expectation of the people. The very process of the election itself would have impressed upon many the enormity of the responsibility we all have been called upon to discharge. A representative is, in fact, a trustee of the people and a custodian of the society at large. A great responsibility is, therefore, bestowed on each one of us. Together we have to steer our nation and people to a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow.

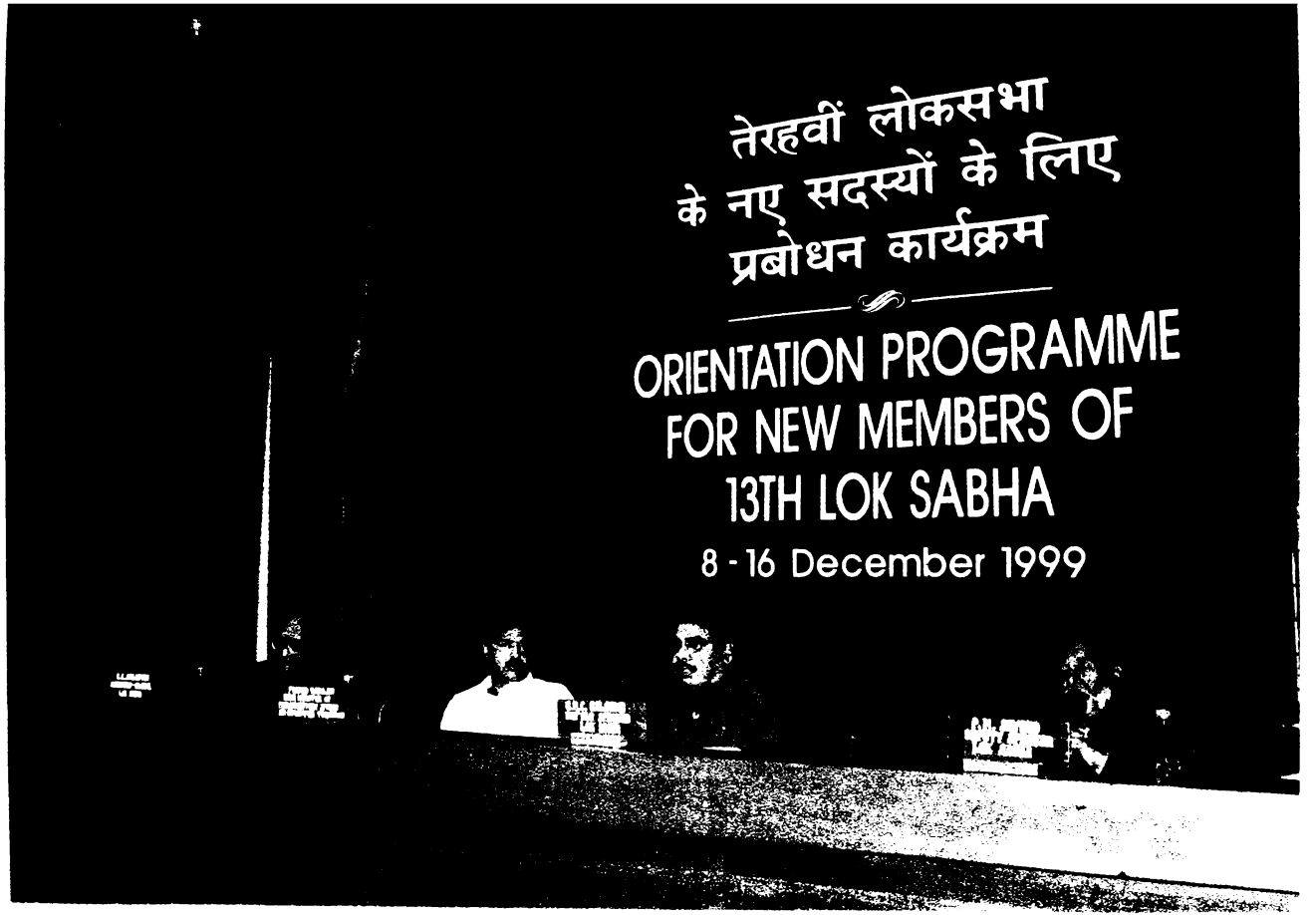
When the mission itself is so formidable, there are bound to be differing perceptions and different approaches to tackling situations and resolving difficulties. Democracy, as you all know, is ultimately the art of reconciling differences and the craft of managing heterogeneity. Yet, even while we give vent to our feelings on the floor of the House in every possible manner, it is important to bear in mind always that our actions have to be in conformity with the rules and procedures which we ourselves have framed for the orderly conduct of business. Scrupulous adherence to the rules is a fundamental quality of a true democrat. Therefore, a good understanding of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Parliament is a very important asset to an aspiring parliamentarian.

A member of Parliament is expected to fulfil a wide variety of functions both inside and outside the House. Within the House, of course, he performs the classical roles ascribed to a legislator. Lawmaking is only one of them. In the processes of governance, he is a fundamental link between the people and the Government. He is expected to be a leader, an advocate, an advisor, and a friend to the people of the constituency and a promoter of their interest at all times.

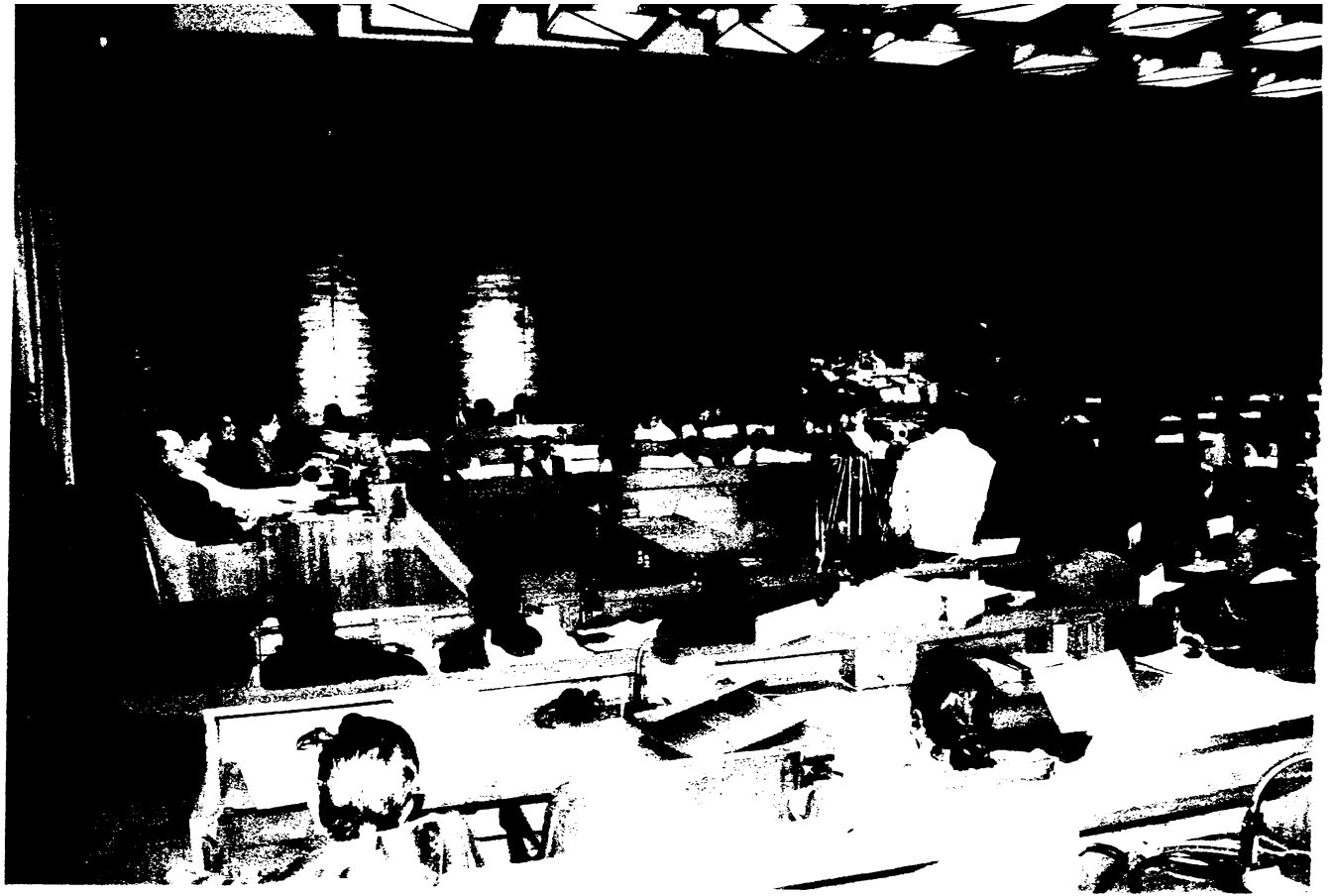
The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed welcoming the distinguished gathering at the Orientation Programme for new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha



The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan addressing the participants at the Orientation Programme



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi inaugurating the
Orientation Programme for the new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha



A view of the participants at the inaugural function of the Orientation Programme for new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha

There are certain personal attributes which are required in a member to be able to make a decisive contribution to the functioning of Parliament. The quality of hard work is the most important attribute. Members should always do sufficient homework before they come to address the House. Their arguments should be well supported by relevant facts and figures. Regular attendance in the house, by itself, is of great advantage to a new member. This will give them ample opportunity to observe the senior members and eventually master the intricacies of parliamentary functioning.

The chamber of parliament is not the only forum available to you to perform your parliamentary duties. The Committee System also offers enormous opportunities to a committed parliamentarian. In our system of Government, the Parliamentary Committees play a very significant role. Today, with the introduction of the Departmentally-related Standing Committee System, we have at least one Parliamentary Committee to study the whole gamut of the functioning of each Department of the Government. Each of you will be associated with more than one Committee during your tenure. For individual members of Parliament, working in these Committees provide opportunities to have a direct glimpse into the working of the various Departments of the Government and to understand their practical problems and constraints. This would also help you to develop expertise and specialisation in the subjects dealt with through the Committees you are going to be associated with. It is, therefore, very important that each of you take the Committee-related work also with the seriousness it deserves.

A very important area where the utmost cooperation of the members is required is in the smooth conduct of the day-to day proceedings of the House. Free debate, objective deliberations and healthy criticisms are the very life and strength of representative democracy. As the Presiding Officer, it is my constant endeavour to facilitate the orderly conduct of the House. But without your full cooperation, no Presiding Officer can run the House in an orderly manner. Always try to honour the rulings of the Chair. Guarding the collective image of the House is an important responsibility assigned to the Presiding Officer. This is essential now more than ever before since we now telecast the proceedings of the House. Remember that your actions and your performance will be watched on television by your constituents and the people at large across the length and breadth of the country. Your actions should befit the role that you have to play in the national endeavour. We have a responsibility to conduct ourselves as role models to the society at large.

Be constructive in your approach and ensure that you remain within the confines of self-imposed discipline in the House. Democracy demands self-discipline of a very high order. It demands from its patrons—the people as well as their leader—among other things, a high degree of democratic temper, the ability to work with others, tolerating different viewpoints, especially of those with whom we may disagree on an ideological plane, and ultimately a willingness to submit oneself to the general will of the majority.

Pt. Nehru, in one of his renowned expositions in the Lok Sabha, said :

> Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues. It demands a certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of cooperation, of self-discipline, of self-restraint. It is obvious that a House like this cannot perform any function without a spirit of cooperation, without a large measure of restraint and self-discipline in each group.

Friends, these words of Panditji are all the more relevant today than for the time in which he said it way back in 1957. If you keep these words of Panditji at the back of your mind always, I am sure, each one of you will be an example to our whole society.

I am sure, the coming week is going to be a very rewarding one for each one of you. The fruits of this Orientation Programme are going to be seen on the floor of Parliament in the days to come. With these words, it is my pleasure to inaugurate this Orientation Programme.

Thank you.

VOTE OF THANKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.C. MALHOTRA

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen :

On behalf of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training and on behalf of all the participants, I feel privileged to extend a Vote of Thanks to the dignitaries on the dais for gracing this occasion and sharing their experiences with the newly-elected members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, we are deeply indebted to you for your valuable advice and guidance in our endeavour to make this programme most beneficial to the new members. Sir, we all know how much you

care and nourish parliamentary institutions so that they may become responsive to people's needs and aspirations.

We all know the difficulties in running a House that is composed of 38 political parties and groups and how despite pressures, you have been steering it so successfully with your amiable disposition and sweet temperament. Your effort to find ways and means for the meaningful use of House time is most noteworthy. What best way for realising this objective can be other than making the Honourable members aware of the rules of procedure and about the various parliamentary devices available to them for raising matters in the House. We are highly grateful to you for coming here and sharing your inspiring thoughts for the benefit of the new entrants to the Lok Sabha.

In ensuring that the entire business of the Government as indeed of the House is accomplished in time and without controversy, much responsibility rests with the Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He has also to provide for sufficient time for the new members to enable them to ventilate the grievances of their constituents. For this purpose, many a time he has to put in great effort behind the scenes soliciting cooperation of all members. Honourable Minister, Sir, all the members look forward to you for your help and guidance in performing their parliamentary duties efficiently. The pearls of wisdom contained in your address would indeed guide the members about the way they should go about their parliamentary work. I take this opportunity Sir, to extend my heartfelt thanks to you.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all feel enriched by your address coming as it does from a parliamentarian with long experience of ten Lok Sabhas spanning over three decades. Sir, you have often been chairing the House during its most lively and, of course, very stressing time called the 'Zero Hour'. The new members would certainly have got some tips from your illuminating address enabling them to know how to catch your eye in the House during his period. Your address will also greatly help our new members to sharpen their debating skills and the art of putting forth views clearly on the floor of the House.

Honourable members, the Orientation Programme has been so designed as to enable you to know the tools that are available for effective participation in the House and its Committees. The Programme would also give an idea about the facilities and amenities that you will enjoy during your tenure. In the coming days, you will have an opportunity of listening to several leading luminaries of our national and political life. They all are seasoned parliamentarians of long standing and experience and have made a mark in our parliamentary set up. My earnest request

is that feel free with them and raise your queries and problems about your parliamentary work unhesitatingly. I thank you all for your enthusiastic response to our invitation.

I also take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the friends from the media for evincing keen interest in this Orientation Programme.

With these words, I once again extend my thanks to all of you.

Thank you.

4

IMPERATIVE OF DISCIPLINE AND DECORUM IN PARLIAMENT*

G.M.C. BALAYOGI

It is widely accepted that parliamentary democracy is a system of governance which has to evolve and grow taking into its fold the native realities and requirements. It necessarily involves certain broad parameters of working and envisages certain principles and policies of public ethics as its functioning base. The character and quality of parliamentary democracy depend very much on the quality and calibre of persons who man the representative bodies which are the supreme institutions in such polities. Their behaviour should be such as to enhance the dignity of Parliament and its members in general. The degree of esteem in which the people of a country hold its Parliament is a sure sign of the success and maturity of its democratic process.

With its rich and varied democratic heritage spanning millennia, India has been a crucible of many cultures and civilizations as also systems of governance. After achieving Independence, we opted for a parliamentary form of Government. Though parliamentary democracy, in its modern sense, has been in operation in our country for the last fifty years only, we have earned encomiums from far and wide as the world's largest working democracy. We have amply proved our inherent and inviolate democratic credentials by successfully conducting as many as thirteen General Elections to the Lok Sabha and many more to the State Legislatures. In spite of many trials and tribulations, democracy has struck deep roots in our country.

Over the years, the face of the Indian Parliament has undergone a dramatic transformation reflecting the socio-political development of the nation as a whole. This has been so particularly in the case of the Lok Sabha, the popularly elected House, which, in effect, connotes the

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* This is an updated version of an article originally published in *Key Issues*, Vol. II, No. 2, March 1999

changing profile of the Indian electorate too. To begin with, one finds that the number of political parties represented in the Lok Sabha has been on the rise, especially in recent years. This corresponds with the proliferation of political parties and the fragmentation of mainline political parties and the emergence of regional parties. Mergers and splits of political parties have become a recurring phenomenon in India's electoral politics. The Thirteenth Lok Sabha has representatives from as many as 38 political parties as compared to 4 or 5 in the First Lok Sabha. Another important feature of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha is the crucial role of the regional parties and single-member parties.

With successive Lok Sabhas, the educational background of its members has also changed considerably. Though our Constitution does not stipulate any formal educational qualification for members of Parliament, it cannot be denied that educational accomplishments have a bearing on the behaviour of a person while conducting himself or herself in a public forum and the general trend in this regard shows that electors have favoured those who have had basic education and who could thereby articulate their problems and grievances more effectively in the supreme legislative organ of the land. In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, 77.49 per cent of the members had education of the level of graduation and above, whereas the corresponding figure for the First Lok Sabha was 58.4 per cent. The occupational background of the members has also been changing with the Lok Sabhas over the decades. In the First Lok Sabha, members with legal background outnumbered those belonging to other professions. In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, they were relegated to the third position behind political and social workers and agriculturists. This indeed is ample proof of a changing approach and attitude of the electorate in choosing their representatives. Their preference perhaps is indicative of the fact that they intend to send to Parliament representatives who are grassroot workers, fully conversant with their problems, and who could place them before the national Government for early and expeditious redressal.

To play a meaningful role as members, it is necessary for them to have a proper perspective of the place of Parliament in our polity. As is said, Parliament is not a talking shop. It is visualized by the Constitution as an important instrument of socio-economic change. As such, it has to closely watch the functioning of the Government and influence its performance for social good. How do members articulate their views? In our Parliament, there are a number of devices available for members to raise matters of concern and they should make full use

of it. While doing so, they should bear in mind that Parliament is not the forum to raise issues that are basically the concerns of State Governments for which the Legislative Assemblies are the proper fora. The issues raised in Parliament should have a wider significance to the society and the nation at large. Members must make full use of all the available opportunities and participate actively in the legislative, financial and other business of the House, bringing to bear their special knowledge, experience and insights in the shaping of public policy and contributing their share in the oversight and scrutiny of performance of the Government and redressal of public grievances.

The Question Hour has a sanctity of its own as a primary device to call upon the Government to explain its actions and stand on a variety of subjects. This is a time when Government is put to a thorough scrutiny by Parliament. Members should, therefore, resist the temptation to demand the suspension of Question Hour to discuss matters of political interest.

An analysis of the time spent on various kind of business during the First to the Twelfth Lok Sabhas reveals that the Fifth Lok Sabha recorded an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes per sitting followed by the Seventh Lok Sabha which devoted 7 hours and 9 minutes of average sitting. However, of late, there is a decline in the trend and the average sitting of the Twelfth Lok Sabha was 6 hours and 32 minutes. A recent development in the functioning of the Lok Sabha which deserves the attention of all those concerned with the working of parliamentary system is the frequent adjournments of the House as a result of disorderly scenes and interruptions. Such disruptions have led to a loss of about 10.66 per cent of the time of the House during the Twelfth Lok Sabha and 68 hours and 37 minutes of the business of the House were spent where nothing could be recorded and nobody could hear the members of Parliament.

The image of the Parliament and its credibility as a representative institution largely depend on the role and functions of its members. The functioning of Parliament is a serious business and it ought to be conducted with a degree of dignity, decorum, and sincerity. Maintenance of order in the House is the fundamental duty of the Speaker. He is not only the moderator and facilitator of the sittings of the House, but is also the authority invested with the responsibility to help frame sound rules, practices, customs and conventions and thereby to evolve a healthy parliamentary culture. The Speaker derives his disciplinary powers from the Rules. He may, in his discretion, intervene when a

member makes an unwarranted or defamatory remark by asking him to withdraw that remark or order the expunction of any defamatory or indecent words used in the debate. The Speaker may also order a member guilty of disorderly conduct to withdraw from the House, and name a member for suspension if the member disregards the authority of the Chair and persists in obstructing the proceedings of the House in case of grave disorder.

The proceedings, at times, become noisy leading to pandemonium and turmoil. This projects Parliament in a poor light, especially in view of the fact that the proceedings are now-a-days shown live on the television. Members should refrain from the tendency to rush to the well of the House, raise slogans and create unruly scenes. As mentioned earlier, a lot of precious time of the House is wasted this way. It is equally important that members must imbibe the etiquette of Parliament. In the heat of the moment when passions run high, members sometimes tend to use unparliamentary language. There is, of course, a practice to expunge such remarks from records but it has to be borne in mind that with live telecasting, such expunction becomes infructuous as people would have already heard it. Pandit Nehru, an epitome of parliamentary decorum, once observed :

> "Democracy does not mean simply shouting loudly and persistently, though that might have occasionally some value. Freedom and democracy require responsibility and certain standards of behaviour and self-discipline."

Ironically, protests seem to attract greater media attention. At times, sensational news-noisy scenes, pandemonium, walk-outs in the Houses of Parliament, etc.—are given front page coverage in the national dailies and important issues like legislative and financial business tend to get sidelined or are ignored. Media, being one of the pillars of democracy, has an educative role as well. If media writes forcefully and accurately and gives importance to the real issues and significant matters and debates and deliberations in the Legislatures, it can become more effective and meaningful in its purpose.

Apart from the Committee of Privileges, which is there to inquire into cases of breaches of privilege of the House and its members, *ad hoc* committees of the House have also been constituted from time to time to consider and investigate the conduct of members.

On 18 February 1963, five members of Parliament created disorder at the time of the President's Address to members of both the Houses

of Parliament assembled together. The next day, a Committee was appointed by the Speaker to report to the House of the disorderly conduct of the members. The Committee, in their report, recommended that for any disorderly conduct by a member during the President's Address, he may be suspended from the service of the House for a period which may extend upto one year. Replying to the discussion on the report of the Committee, Pandit Nehru remarked:

> "The sole question before us is–it is a highly important one and vital one-what rules and conventions we should establish for carrying on the work of this Parliament with dignity and effectiveness... Parliament is supposed not only to act correctly but lay down certain principles and conventions of decorous behaviour."

In 1971, when the President started reading his Address to both the Houses of Parliament, a member of Lok Sabha interrupted him and created disorder. The Committee constituted to look into the matter held the member's conduct improper and inconsistent with the dignity of the occasion. The Committee formulated certain guidelines for the conduct of members and maintenance of order, dignity and decorum on the occasion of the President's Address. Over the years, on the basis of well-established parliamentary practices, certain rules of conduct, norms of behaviour and conventions have developed for legislators in their functioning in the House, in Parliamentary Committees, during President's Address, their functioning outside the House, etc.

The imperative for maintaining discipline and decorum in the Parliament can hardly be over-emphasized. Incidents of pandemonium and unruly scenes have been a matter of concern to all those connected with the working of parliamentary institutions–be it the Presiding Officers, the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, Leaders of Political Parties, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Whips or members. In 1992, a two-day All-India Conference of Presiding Officers, Leaders of Parties, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, Whips, Parliamentarians, Legislators and Senior Officers of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi to dwell on many related aspects of the functioning of parliamentary institutions such as disorders and disturbances during the President's and Governor's Address, suspension of Question Hour, the so-called 'Zero-Hour', number of sittings, training of legislators, code of conduct for members, etc. The basic and unequivocal concern of the participants was effective use of the time of the House, orderly conduct of the business of the House and ways and means to make the Executive more responsive to the grievances

of the people. The Conference unanimously adopted a Resolution reflecting the consensus. The resolution *inter-alia* stressed that with a view to preserving the democratic and secular fabric and strengthening the parliamentary institutions, it was necessary for the members to maintain decorum and dignity at the time of the President's/Governor's Address; to utilise fully and effectively the Question time as a well-established device to ensure accountability of the Executive; and to observe the Rules of Procedure in order to maintain order and decorum in the House. The Resolution also emphasised that the political parties should evolve a code of conduct for their legislators and ensure its observance by them.

The Special Session of Parliament to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence, held from 26 August to 1 September 1997, unanimously adopted a Resolution which *inter alia* emphasizes:

> That the prestige of the Parliament be preserved and enhanced, also by conscious and dignified conformity to the entire regime of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Houses and Directions of the Presiding Officers relating to orderly conduct of business, more especially by,
>
> - maintaining the inviolability of the Question Hour,
> - refraining from transgressing into the official areas of the House, or from any shouting of slogans, and
> - invariably desisting from any efforts at interruption or interferences with the Address of the President of the Republic.

Maintenance of discipline and decorum, therefore, is a pre-requisite for the smooth functioning of our parliamentary democracy. It is in this context that the concept of ethics and standards for parliamentarians assumes relevance and significance. In March 1997, the Rajya Sabha constituted an Ethics Committee to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the members and to examine the cases referred to it. During the life of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, a Study Group of the Committee of Privileges undertook a study of parliamentary privileges, ethics and related matters. The Report of the Study Group on *Ethics, Standards in Public Life, Privileges, Facilities to Members and Other Related Matters*, as adopted by the Committee of Privileges and presented to the Twelfth Lok Sabha, recommended broad parameters to be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha for dealing with complaints relating to the unbecoming conduct of a member or his unethical behaviour. As an elected representative of the people, a member's

status is an exalted one. While privileges are given to members to enable them to perform their parliamentary duties unfettered, these privileges also entail certain obligations. A dignified conduct is one of the primary obligations of a member of Parliament.

As briefly mentioned earlier, ever since independence, the overall political scenario of the country has undergone a major change. Consequently, the party system and the nature of Government have also changed. We have been witnessing for the last few years a gradual decline of the dominance of a single political party and the emergence of regional parties on the horizon of Indian politics. Today, we have various political parties advocating the interests of different sections of our society. The last four General Elections returned Parliaments with no party on its own managing a working majority. As a result, we have seen several Coalition Governments.

What is the role of the Speaker in such a political scenario? Basically, his role and functions remain the same whether it is a Parliament with no party in absolute majority or a Parliament where a single party has absolute majority. The Speaker's role is to conduct the business of the House according to the Rules of Procedure. His principal role remains unchanged, *i.e.* to regulate the proceedings of the House and to enable it to deliberate on and decide the various matters coming up before it. Nonetheless, the Speaker operates in a different environment, especially when there is a hung Parliament or when a Coalition Government is in office. The situation becomes more tenuous when the ruling coalition is supported by parties from outside without actually joining the coalition. Differing perceptions of political parties always find their echo in the Parliament, making the task of the Presiding Officer very demanding.

In this age of hung Parliaments, management of the time of the House is very crucial and is of utmost importance. With razor-thin majorities and ever-changing political formulations, orderly conduct of the business of the House in these trying situations is a tough task, especially when the whole nation is watching the unfolding drama.

There is little doubt, therefore, that the time has come when all the political parties should find ways to improve the quality of member's participation in parliamentary proceedings and to ensure that members conduct themselves in a dignified and decorous manner. As elsewhere, training is necessary for them to understand the subtleties and nuances of parliamentary democracy. There is an urgent need for imparting

political education to new members, either by the political parties themselves or through some other mechanism as may be evolved on the basis of consensus. As far as procedural training is concerned, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training of the Lok Sabha Secretariat organises Orientation Programmes in Parliamentary Practices and Procedures for new members.

In a parliamentary system of government, parliamentarians play a vital role. The image of democracy as a form of Government depends upon the Parliament and the image of Parliament, in turn, depends upon the image of its parliamentarians. In fact, the future of the democratic set-up itself depends upon the way the parliamentarians discharge their duties and responsibilities. Once elected, they are representatives not only of their constituency but of the State and the nation as a whole. Hence, their behaviour and actions inside the House as well as outside have a great bearing and impact on the national situation. The members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha have the solemn responsibility of launching our country into the new millennium. They have to realise the ideals and goals enshrined in the Golden Jubilee Resolution and to collectively endeavour to set new standards and reach higher levels of parliamentary conduct. It is said that any institution is as good as its members choose to make it. It is thus that the members have to live up to the people's expectations in heralding a new era in our parliamentary polity.

5

MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA– A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

LARRDIS*

Introduction

India is a country of continental dimensions with a population of about one billion people. Diversity, even though manifested everywhere, has indeed, been the core of India's strength. Be it tradition, history, culture, language, food or dress habits, one part of the country is not similar to that of another. This diversity is also reflected in the membership and composition of the popularly elected House of Parliament, the Lok Sabha. Members with different educational qualifications, speaking different languages and belonging to different religious beliefs, and professions are elected to the Lok Sabha. But, irrespective of these diversities, they are all united by a common purpose, *i.e.*, the purpose of working for the welfare of the people. The Twelfth Lok Sabha was no exception.

The present study is basically an attempt to record the data about the socio-economic background of members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha**. Analysis has been made on the basis of their age, education, occupation, political affiliation, marital status and past legislative experience. A comparative assessment has also been made of the Twelfth Lok Sabha with the Eleventh Lok Sabha as also the earlier Houses wherever necessary, to draw certain conclusions about the general trends of representation. The level of women's representation has also been analysed with a view to providing a helpful indicator for researchers. A statistical profile of new members has also been included in the Study.

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* Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service

** The date of constitution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, i.e. 10 March 1998 has been taken as the cut off date for deciding various parametres

Composition of the House

Following the General Elections held in four phases on 16, 22 and 28 February and 7 March 1998, the Twelfth Lok Sabha was constituted on 10 March 1998 on the basis of the election results of 539 seats.

The Twelfth Lok Sabha had representation from diverse political parties, with the number of parties in the House touching an all time record of 28. The Constitution of India provides that subject to the provision for nomination by the President of two members from the Anglo-Indian community, the House of the People (Lok Sabha) shall consist of not more than five hundred and thirty members chosen from different territorial constituencies in the States and not more than twenty members from the Union territories*. As per the existing delimitation of constituencies, there are only 543 elective seats in the House. The total strength of the Lok Sabha as on 10 June 1998 was 545, including the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the two nominated members. (*Table 1* indicates the detailed party position in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as on 10 June 1998).

Although bio-data of all the 545 members constitute the basis of this study, in some cases necessary information in respect of various parameters like date of birth, educational qualification, occupation, etc. were not available. The study and the various conclusions are based on the information furnished by members as far as various parameters are concerned.

Age Profile

The Constitution lays down no upper age limit for membership of Parliament. It, however, prescribes a minimum age of 25 years to contest elections for membership of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and 30 years for membership of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

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* Article 331 of the Constitution provides that notwithstanding anything in article 81, the President may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the People, nominate not more than two members of that community to the House of the People. Lt.Gen. (Retd.) Naville Foley and Dr.(Smt.) Beatrix D'Souza were nominated to the Twelfth Lok Sabha on 24 March 1998

TABLE 1

STATE WISE PARTY POSITION AS ON 10 JUNE 1998

Sl.Name of States	Total Seats	BJP	INC	CPI(M)	SP	AIADMK	RJD	SAP	TDP	BJD	CPI	SAD	JD	TC	DMK	SS	BSP	RSP	IND.	OTHERS	TOTAL
1. Andhra Pradesh	42	4	22						12		2		1							1(a)	42
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2																			2(b)	2
3. Assam	14	1	10																1	2(c)	14
4. Bihar	54	19	5				18	10					1							1(d)	54
5. Goa	2		2																		2
6. Gujarat	26	19	7																		26
7. Haryana	10	1	3														1			5(e)	10
8. Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1																		4
9. Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	1																	3(f)	6
10. Karnataka	28	13	9										3							3(g)	28
11. Kerala	20		8	6							2							1		3(h)	20
12. Madhya Pradesh	40	30	10																		40
13. Maharashtra	48	4	33													6				5(i)	48
14. Manipur	2										1									1(j)	2
15. Meghalaya	2		2																		2
16. Mizoram	1																		1		1
17. Nagaland	1		1																		1
18. Orissa	21	7	5							9											21
19. Punjab	13	3										8	1						1		13
20. Rajasthan	25	5	18																1	1(k)	25
21. Sikkim	1																			1(l)	1
22. Tamil Nadu	39	3				18					1				5				1	11(m)	39
23. Tripura	2			2																	2
24. Uttar Pradesh	85	57			20			2									4		1	1(n)	85
25. West Bengal	42	1	1	24							3			7				4		2(o)	42
26. Andaman & Nicobar Is.	1		1																		1
27. Chandigarh	1	1																			1
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1																			1
29. Delhi	7	6	1																		7
30. Lakshdweep	1		1																		1
31. Pondicherry	1														1						1
32. Daman & Diu	1	1																			1
Total	543	181	141	32	20	18	18	12	12	9	9	8	6	7	6	6	5	5	6	42	543

(a) All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen - 1
(b) Arunachal Congress - 2
(c) Autonomous State Demand Committee - 1; United Minorities Front - 1
(d) All India Rashtriya Janata Party - 1
(e) Haryana Vikas Party - 1; Haryana Lok Dal - 4
(f) National Conference - 3
(g) Lok Shakti Party - 3
(h) Kerala Congress(M) - 1; Muslim League - 2
(i) Republican Party of India - 4; Peasant and Workers Party - 1
(j) Manipur State Congress Party - 1
(k) All India Indira Congress (Secular) - 1
(l) Sikkim Democratic Front - 1
(m) Janata Party -1; Pattalli Makkal Katchi - 4; Tamil Manila Congress(M) - 3; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - 3
(n) Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) - 1
(o) All India Forward Bloc - 2

Abbreviations used for Parties/Groups
AIADMK - All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
BJD - Biju Janata Dal
BJP - Bharatiya Janata party
BSP - Bahujan Samaj Party
CPI - Communist Party of India
CPI(M) - Communist Party of India (Marxist)
DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
INC - Indian National Congress
IND - Independent
JD - Janata Dal
RJD - Rashtriya Janata Dal
RSP - Revolutionary Socialist Party
SAD - Shiromani Akali Dal
SAP - Samata Party
SP - Samajwadi Party
SS - Shiv Sena
TDP - Telugu Desam Party
TC - Trinamool Congress

Age-wise, the 12th Lok Sabha had the average age of 46.42 years (calculated on the basis of the information furnished by 535 members), as against 52.82 years in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and 51.45 years in the Tenth Lok Sabha. In the First Lok Sabha the average age was 46.5 years. The average age of members in various Lok Sabhas is indicated in *Graph 1*. It may be seen from the Graph that in terms of averages, the Twelfth Lok Sabha was the youngest House so far.

For the sake of detailed analysis, the members have been classified into 13 different age groups with a span of 5 years each, beginning with the age group of 25-30 years and ending with 86-90 years (*Table 2* and *Graph 2*). As may be observed, the composition of the Twelfth Lok Sabha showed more inclination towards the middle-aged members. As the largest representative group in the House, they (*i.e.*, age group between 41 to 55 years) constituted about 48.39 per cent (out of 535 members). The highest representation of this age group was 53.2 per cent in the Fifth Lok Sabha and the lowest was 42.1 per cent in the Eighth Lok Sabha.

Members who were either 35 or below, had about 6.34 per cent representation which was marginally less than their percentage in the Eleventh Lok Sabha which stood at 6.39. There was also a small fall in the percentage of very younger members (in the age group of 25-30 years) in the Twelfth Lok Sabha which stood at 2.05 per cent as compared to 2.13 per cent in the previous Lok Sabha. Members who were 56 years of age or above had 36.8 per cent representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha compared to 38.93 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

As regards the representation of members in the age group of 81-85 years, the Eighth Lok Sabha registered the highest representation till date at 0.6 per cent. The first two Lok Sabhas and the Ninth Lok Sabha had no representation in this group. From this age group, there were three members in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and two members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The remaining Lok Sabhas had a lone representative each in this group. While Shri Ishwarbhai Khodabhai Chavda (85 years) was the oldest male member in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, Smt. Vijayaraje Scindia (78 years) was the oldest lady member. Shri Aditya Nath (25 years) was the youngest male member in the House while Smt. Reena Choudhary (29 years) was the youngest lady member.

Educational Background

The Constitution does not stipulate any formal educational qualifica-

GRAPH 1 : AVERAGE AGE OF MEMBERS FROM 1ST TO 12TH LOK SABHA

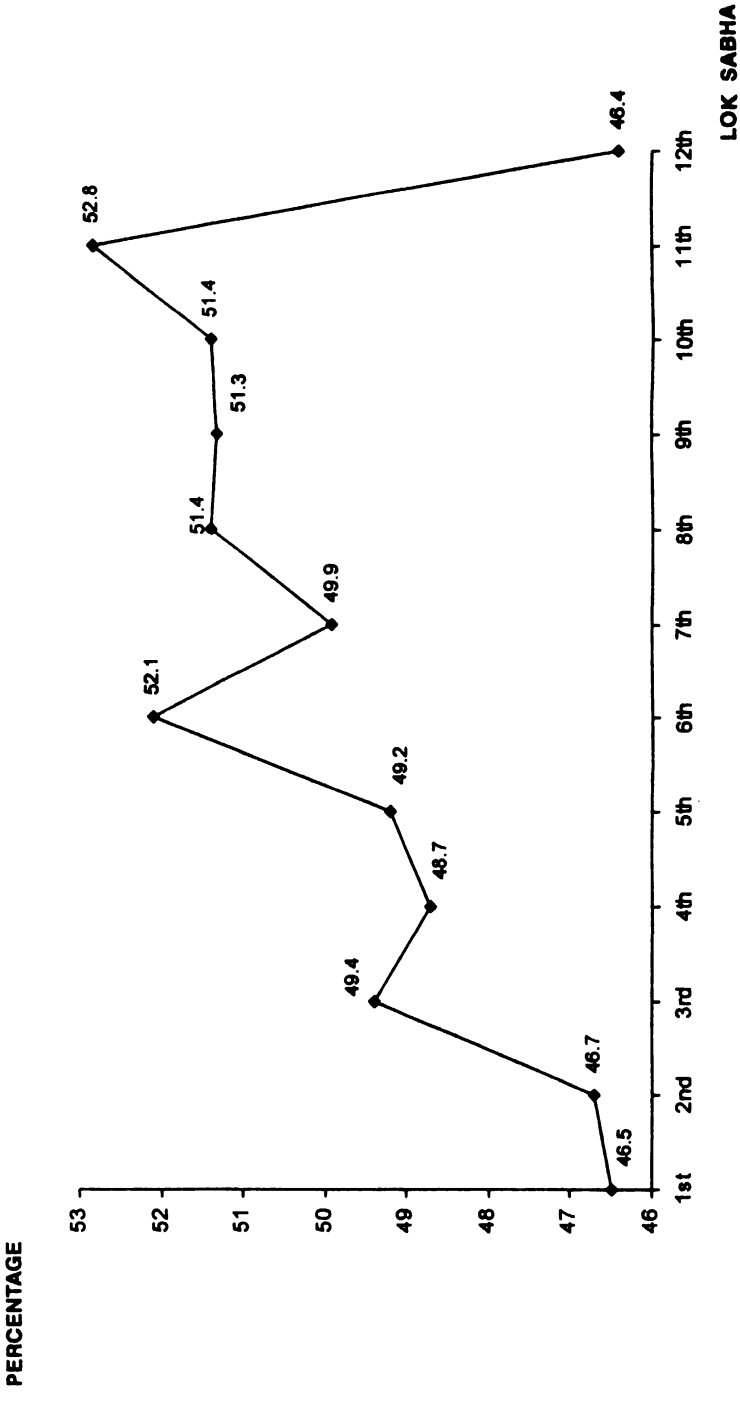


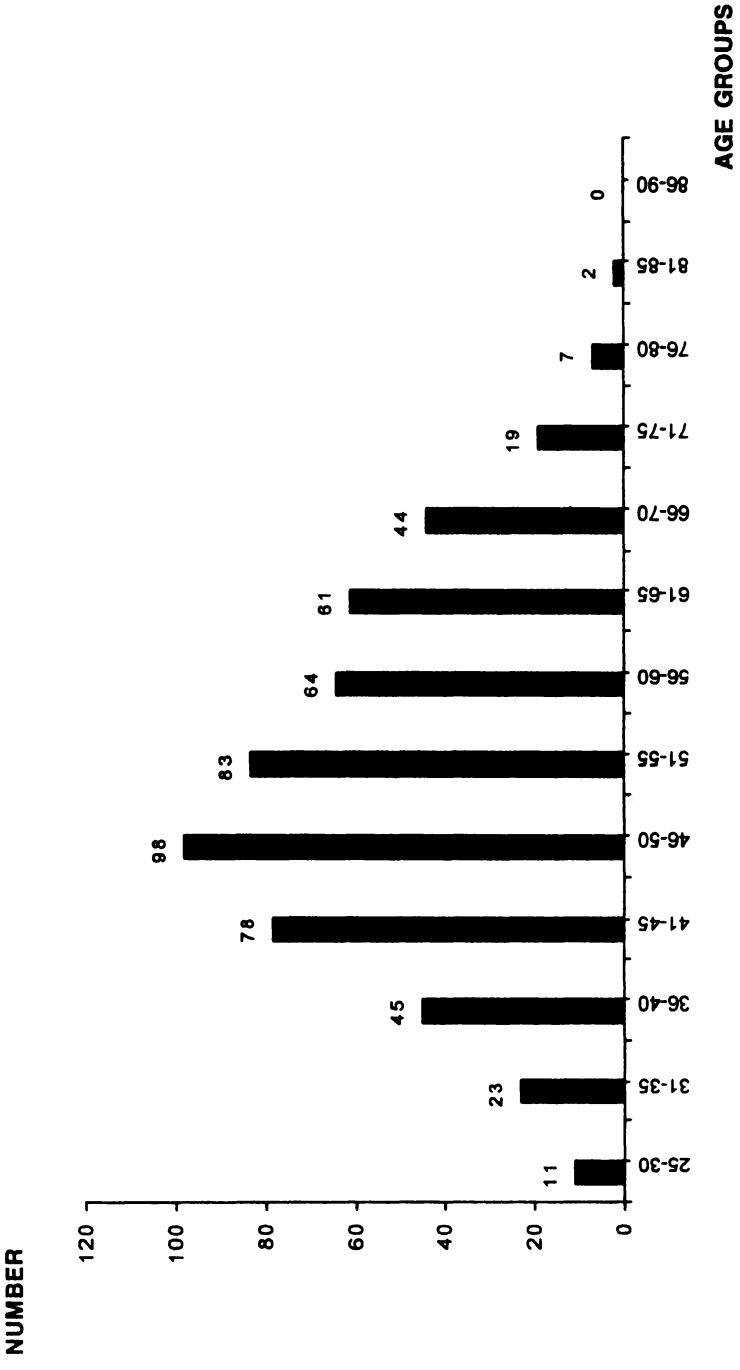
TABLE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA BY AGE GROUPS

Age Group	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
25-30 years	28	6	13	2.6	11	2.3	22	4.4	16	3.1	18	3.5	9	1.7	7	1.3	14	2.68	8	1.58	11	2.13	11	2.05
31-35 years	54	11.6	60	12.3	34	7.1	37	7.5	28	5.5	26	5	43	8.3	36	6.8	17	3.25	32	6.34	22	4.26	23	4.29
36-40 years	58	12.5	91	18.7	64	13.7	68	13.7	62	12.3	62	11.9	71	13.7	60	11.3	55	10.53	50	9.9	43	8.33	45	8.41
41-45 years	68	14.7	71	14.6	79	16.6	84	17	76	15	69	13.3	75	15.5	73	13.7	76	14.55	75	14.85	77	14.92	78	14.57
46-50 years	74	16	64	13.1	73	15.4	85	17	99	19.6	94	18.1	70	13.5	77	14.5	92	17.62	87	17.23	82	15.89	98	18.31
51-55 years	93	20.3	76	15.6	69	14.5	69	14	94	18.6	94	18.1	84	16.2	74	13.9	82	15.7	71	14.06	80	15.5	83	15.51
56-60 years	47	10.1	70	14.4	58	12.2	55	11	57	11.3	66	12.7	87	16.8	80	15.1	68	13.02	65	12.87	65	12.59	64	11.96
61-65 years	29	6.2	25	5.1	58	12.2	39	7.9	35	6.9	41	8	41	7.9	74	13.9	63	12.06	66	13.07	59	11.43	61	11.4
66-70 years	10	2	12	2.4	21	4.4	25	5	25	4.9	33	6.4	24	4.6	30	5.7	41	7.85	32	6.34	47	9.1	44	8.22
71-75 years	1	0.2	4	1	6	1.2	10	2	9	1.7	11	2.1	11	2.1	11	2.1	12	2.29	14	2.77	19	3.68	19	3.55
76-80 years	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4	4	0.7	3	0.6	6	1.1	1	0.19	4	0.79	8	1.55	7	1.3
81-85 years	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.02	3	0.6	–	–	1	0.2	3	0.58	2	0.37
86-90 years	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.19	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total Number of members who supplied information	462		486		475		496		504		519		519		531		522		505		516		535	
Total Number of Seats	499		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543		545*	

*Including two nominated members

GRAPH 2: AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA IN NUMBERS



tion for being a member of Parliament. However, as shown in *Table 3*, more than three-fourth of the members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha were either graduates, post-graduates or had higher qualifications to their credits.

In order to have an overall view of the educational standards of the members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, members were put under six categories according to their educational qualifications, *viz.* (i) Under-matriculates; (ii) Matriculates/Higher Secondary/Intermediate Certificate holders; (iii) Under-graduates; (iv) Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications); (v) Post-graduates (including technical qualifications); and (vi) Doctoral degree or other higher academic qualification holders. *Table 3* shows the number and percentage of members of all the twelve Lok Sabhas falling into these categories. *Graph 3* indicates the educational background of members, percentage-wise, from the First to the Twelfth Lok Sabha. *Graph 4*, however, confines itself to a study of the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

With 77.49 per cent of its members having educational qualifications of the level of graduation and above, the Twelfth Lok Sabha stood next only to the Ninth Lok Sabha which was the most educated House so far (78.23 per cent) in terms of academic qualifications. Going by any single category, graduates (including those having equivalent technical qualifications) in the Twelfth House accounted for 44.8 per cent, about 4 per cent less than the highest percentage for the category, *i.e.*, 48.74 recorded in the Ninth Lok Sabha but 1.86 per cent more than the Eleventh Lok Sabha. The percentage of post-graduates (including those with equivalent technical education) in the Twelfth Lok Sabha was 28.16 while members with Doctoral qualification or other high academic qualifications constituted 4.53 per cent. Combined together, the post-graduates and Doctorate holders constituted 32.69 per cent in the last House. In the Eleventh and Tenth Lok Sabhas, the respective figures were 34.42 and 32.74 per cent respectively. The First Lok Sabha had the lowest ever representation in this combined category (about 21.3 per cent).

The Under-Graduates (*i.e.*, members who studied for Graduation without completing it) as a category was included in the study for the first time in the Tenth Lok Sabha). They stood at 11.31 per cent in that House. Their percentage in the Twelfth Lok Sabha had shrunk substantially to 3.4.

The category of Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders had 16.82 per cent representation in the Twelfth Lok

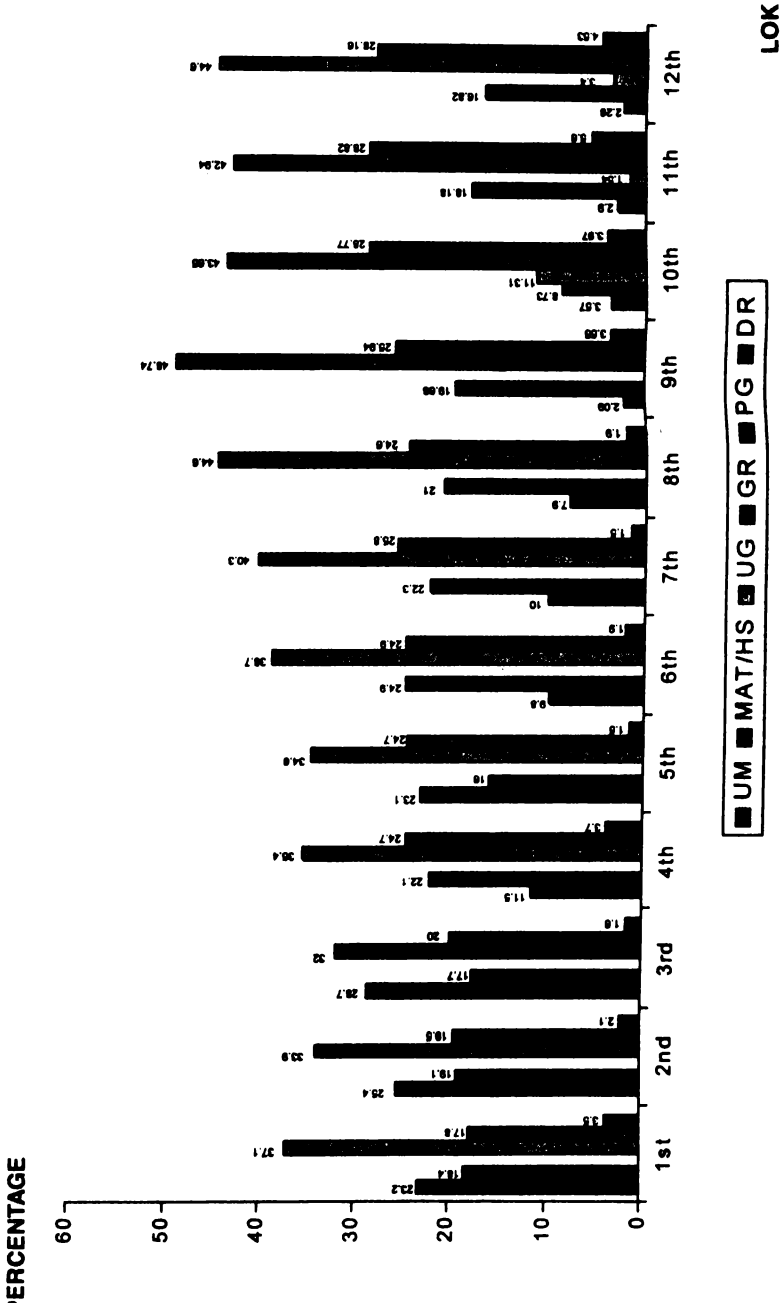
TABLE 3

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA

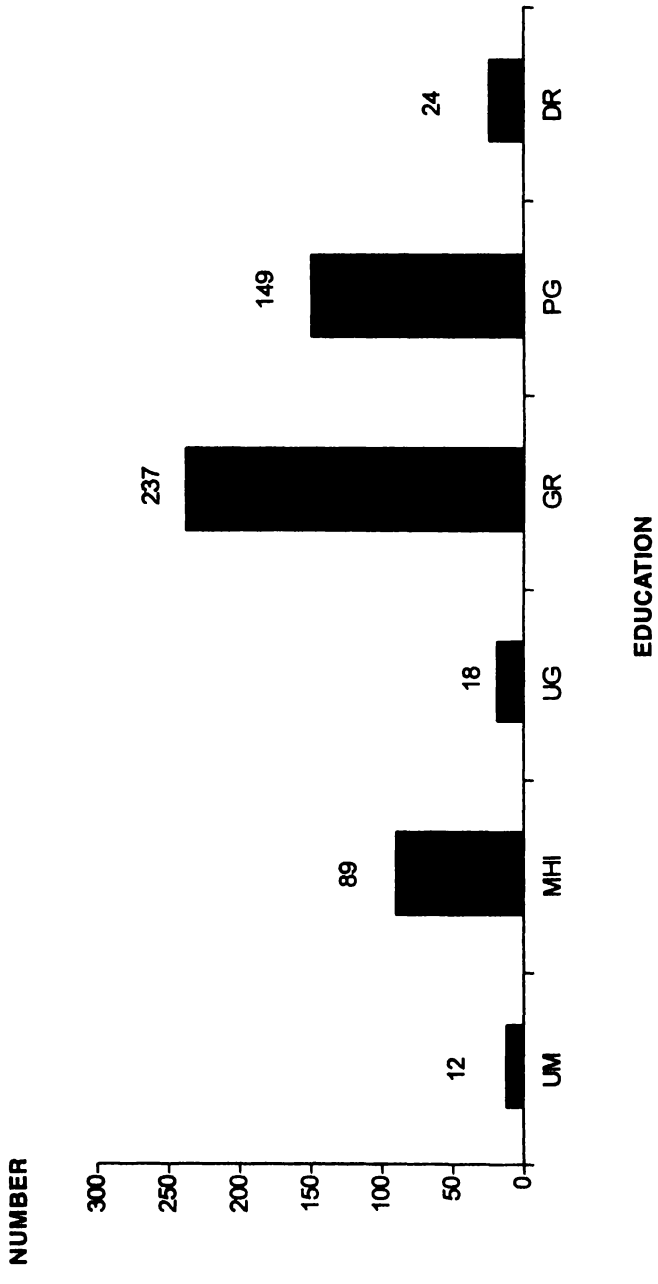
Educational Background	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under-Matriculates	112	23.2	120	25.4	141	28.7	54	11.5	119	23.1	52	9.8	53	10	42	7.9	10	2.09	18	3.57	15	2.9	12	2.26
Matriculates/	88	18.4	90	19.1	87	17.7	101	22.1	82	16	132	24.9	118	22.3	112	21	94	19.66	44	8.73	94	18.18	89	16.82
Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders																								
Under Graduates	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	57	11.31	8	1.54	18	3.4
Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications)	177	37.1	160	33.9	157	32	172	35.4	178	34.6	205	38.7	213	40.3	238	44.6	233	48.74	220	43.65	222	42.94	237	44.8
Post-Graduates (including Technical qualifications)	85	17.8	92	19.5	98	20	113	24.7	127	24.7	132	24.9	138	25.8	131	24.6	124	25.94	145	28.77	149	28.82	149	28.16
Doctoral Degree or other higher academic qualification holders	15	3.5	9	2.1	7	1.6	17	3.7	8	1.5	9	1.7	8	1.5	10	1.9	17	3.55	20	3.97	29	5.6	24	4.53
Total number of members who supplied information	477		471		490		457		514		530		528		533		478		504		517		529	
Total Number of seats	499		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543		545*	

* Including two nominated members

GRAPH 3: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM 1ST TO 12TH LOK SABHA IN %



GRAPH 4: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA IN NUMBER



Sabha in comparison to 18.18 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. In the category of Under-Matriculates, the Twelfth Lok Sabha had 2.26 per cent representation, whereas it was 2.90 in the Eleventh and 3.57 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. It was 2.09 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha, the lowest ever so far.

Occupational Background

It may be mentioned here that in the case of the first two Lok Sabhas, the category of political and social workers, as a distinct occupational category, was not taken into consideration. Therefore, this category is not shown in *Table 4* against the First and the Second Lok Sabhas. Similarly, the occupational categories of diplomats, economists, and pilots were included from the Ninth Lok Sabha onwards. The categories of businessmen, scientists, and sports persons were included for the first time in the study of the Tenth Lok Sabha. The categories of cooperative leaders and management consultants were included in the study of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Three new categories, *viz.* Chartered Accountants, Judges, and Veterinarians have been included for the first time in the study of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The study of the occupational background of the members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha is based on the information available in case of 532 members out of 545.

From the occupational point of view also, members came from various walks of life. As is seen from *Table 4*, the Twelfth Lok Sabha had as many as 261 agriculturists constituting about 49.06 per cent of the House. In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, their number was 207 constituting 38.98 per cent of the 531 respondents. This was the highest representation of agriculturists in any Lok Sabha. Agriculturists constituted 32.09 per cent of the Tenth Lok Sabha and 44.14 per cent of the Ninth Lok Sabha.

Next to agriculturists, political and social workers with 18.04 per cent of members constituted the second highest category in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Their percentage in the Eleventh Lok Sabha was 19.58. The Fourth Lok Sabha with 22.9 per cent had the highest representation of political and social workers while the Eighth Lok Sabha with 16 per cent had the lowest representation.

With 10.15 per cent of representation, lawyers constituted the third largest group in the House. There was a noticeable decline in their representation in the Lok Sabha and the strength of 10.15 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha was the lowest figure so far as compared to 35.6 per cent, 30.5 per cent, 24.5 per cent, 17.5 per cent, 20.5 per cent, 23.4

TABLE 4
OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHAS

Prior Occupation	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Agriculturists/ Horticulturists	97	22.5	141	29.1	129	27.4	154	30.6	168	33.2	189	36	208	39.3	203	38.3	230	44.14	169	32.09	207	38.98	261	49.06
Artists	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	5	0.9	4	0.76	5	0.98	7	1.31	6	1.12
Businessmen	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23	4.53	31	5.83	8	1.5
Chartered Accts	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.18
Civil, Police & Military Service	16	3.7	19	4	4	0.9	16	3.2	17	3.4	9	1.7	5	0.9	16	3	6	1.15	16	3.15	13	2.44	10	1.87
Co-operative Leaders	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	0.75	–	–
Diplomats	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	0.57	4	0.79	4	0.75	2	0.37
Economists	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.19	–	–	1	0.18	1	0.18
Engineers & Technologist	–	–	–	–	4	0.9	7	1.4	6	1.2	5	0.9	6	1.1	4	0.8	11	2.11	7	1.38	9	1.69	5	0.93
Former/Rulers	5	1.1	7	1.4	10	2.1	7	1.4	2	0.4	3	0.6	1	0.2	3	0.6	2	0.38	3	0.59	–	–	2	0.37
Judges	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.18
Industrial Workers																								
Trade Unionists	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	1	0.2	–	–	9	1.7	4	0.8	7	1.3	2	0.38	4	0.79	4	0.75	11	2.06
Journalists/Writers	45	10.4	50	10.2	27	5.8	24	4.8	32	6.3	11	2.7	15	2.9	7	1.3	14	2.68	11	2.17	8	1.5	7	1.31
Lawyers	153	35.6	147	30.5	115	24.5	88	17.5	103	20.5	123	23.4	116	22.2	101	19.1	80	15.35	68	16.34	65	12.24	54	10.15
Management Consultant	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	0.37	2	0.37
Medical Practitioners	21	4.9	17	3.5	14	3	14	2.8	9	1.7	10	1.9	10	1.9	21	4	18	3.45	25	4.92	16	3.01	17	3.19
Pilots	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.19	1	0.2	2	0.37	–	–
Political & Social Workers	–	–	–	–	88	18.7	115	22.9	98	19	105	20	90	17.2	65	16	89	17.08	92	18.11	104	19.58	96	18.04
Religious Missionaires	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	4	0.8	2	0.4	–	–	1	0.2	1	0.2	–	–	3	0.59	1	0.18	4	0.75
Scientist	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	–	–	–	–
Sportspersons	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	0.39	–	–	3	0.56
Teachers & Educationists	43	9.9	55	11.3	27	5.8	33	6.5	38	7.1	44	8.4	35	6.7	41	7.7	41	7.86	49	9.65	43	8.09	28	5.26
Traders & Industrialists	52	12	50	10.2	50	10.3	39	7.5	35	6.8	17	3.3	33	6.3	36	6.8	19	3.64	16	3.15	14	2.63	12	2.25
Veterinarians	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.18
Total Number of members who supplied information	432		466		470		503		506		525		523		530		521		508		531		532	

per cent, 22.2 per cent, 19.1 per cent, 15.35 per cent, 16.34 per cent and 12.24 per cent share, respectively, in the First to the Eleventh Lok Sabhas. The fact that they were the single largest group in the first two Lok Sabhas reflected the prevailing socio-political and educational trends of the society at that time.

Teachers and educationists as a group had the highest ever representation of 11.3 per cent in the Second Lok Sabha. There is a declining trend in their representation also. The figure was 9.65 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha and 8.09 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. The percentage of their representation was 5.26 in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the lowest so far in the history of Lok Sabha.

Medical practitioners constituted 3.19 per cent of the respondent members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha which was a little higher than the 3.01 per cent of representation they had in the Eleventh Lok Sabha but is lower than the Tenth Lok Sabha figure of 4.92 per cent.

The category of traders and industrialists which registered a declining trend in the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas further declined in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Only 2.25 per cent of members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha were traders and industrialists as compared to 2.63 per cent in the Eleventh, 3.15 per cent in the Tenth and 3.64 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha.

The representation of journalists and writers in the Twelfth Lok Sabha also registered a decline. Compared to 2.68 per cent in the Ninth, 2.17 per cent in the Tenth and 1.5 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, it was 1.31 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Their level of representation in the Twelfth one was almost equal to that in the Eighth Lok Sabha which had 1.3 per cent representation. Their highest representation, 10.4 per cent, was in the First Lok Sabha.

Representation in the category of civil, police and military service had registered a decline from 3 per cent in the Eighth Lok Sabha to 1.15 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha. This category improved its representation to 3.15 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha but declined to 2.44 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha which further declined to 1.87 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Engineers and Technocrats had registered a decline from an all time high representation of 2.11 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha to 1.38 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. They had improved their strength in the Eleventh Lok Sabha with 1.69 per cent representation but their position diminished in the Twelfth Lok Sabha with only 0.93 per cent representation. This category had no representation in the first two Lok Sabhas.

Industrial workers and trade unionists improved their representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as compared to earlier Lok Sabhas with 2.06 per cent representation. In the Eleventh, Tenth and Ninth Lok Sabhas their representation was 0.75 per cent, 0.79 per cent and 0.38 per cent, respectively. They had no representation in the first two Lok Sabhas.

There was a marginal decline in the representation of artists who constituted 1.12 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as compared to 1.31 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Their representation in the Tenth and Ninth Lok Sabhas was 0.98 per cent and 0.76 per cent, respectively.

In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the representation of businessmen was 1.5 per cent as compared to 5.83 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and 4.53 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. The category of diplomats had 0.37 per cent representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as compared to 0.75 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. There was an increase in the representation of religious missionaries. It was 0.75 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as compared to 0.18 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. The representation of management consultants remained static at 0.37 per cent in the Eleventh and the Twelfth Lok Sabhas. Sports persons had 0.56 per cent representation, former rulers 0.37 per cent and economists 0.18 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Three new categories – Chartered Accountants, Judges, and Veterinarians – were included in this study. Each one of these categories had 0.18 per cent representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Previous Legislative Experience

The 545-member Twelfth Lok Sabha had 217 (39.81 per cent) new entrants who had their previous legislative experience confined either to the Rajya Sabha or the State Legislatures or having no legislative experience at all. A break up of the figures would show that out of 217 new entrants to the Twelfth Lok Sabha, 15 members had experience of serving in the Upper House of Parliament. Out of these 15, seven had experience in State Legislatures also. As many as 100 members were totally fresh having no experience in the legislative arena. A total of 202 members did not have previous legislative experience in either House of Parliament (93.08 per cent). The number of new members in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and Tenth Lok Sabha were 276 (51.01 per cent) and 183 (39.95 per cent) respectively. *Table 5* shows prior legislative experiences of members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. As is evident from the Table, the House had no member with experience in the Central Legislative Assembly, or the Constituent Assembly or the Provisional

Table 5
PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA

Legislative Experience	Number of Members
Central Legislative Assembly	Nil
Constituent Assembly	Nil
Provisional Parliament	Nil
Lok Sabha	328
Rajya Sabha	46
Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha	32
Lok Sabha and State Legislatures	232
State Legislatures	130

Parliament. The House had 328 (60.18 per cent) members who had prior experience in the Lok Sabha and 46 (8.44 per cent) members who had experience in the Rajya Sabha. Thirty-two members (5.87 per cent) had experience in both the Houses of Parliament while 232 members (42.56 per cent) had experience in the Lok Sabha as well as State Legislatures. *Table 6* shows that 253 members (46.42 per cent) of the Twelfth Lok Sabha were members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha while 161 members (29.54 per cent) were members of the Tenth Lok Sabha. There were 115 members (21.1 per cent) who had the experience in their Ninth Lok Sabha whereas there were only 4 members (0.73 per cent) who were the members of the Second Lok Sabha.

As indicated in *Table 7*, no member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha enjoyed the distinction of being a member of all the previous eleven Lok Sabhas. However, the distinguished parliamentarian, Shri Indrajit Gupta besides being a member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha singularly held the distinction of serving the nine Lok Sabhas since the Second Lok Sabha with a gap of only one term, *i.e.*, of the Sixth Lok Sabha. Like its predecessors, the Twelfth Lok Sabha also had the maximum number of members with the experience of one Lok Sabha only which stood at 147 (26.97 per cent) followed by members who had experience of two Lok Sabhas (76 members, 13.94 per cent)

Going by Ministerial positions, Speakerships or Deputy Speakerships or other parliamentary/public offices held at the Union and/or the State level prior to membership of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, as indicated

TABLE 6

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH LOK SABHAS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF EARLIER HOUSES IN THE LEGISLATURE AT THE CENTRE AND NEW ENTRANTS

Legislature	No. of Members in					
	7th Lok Sabha	8th Lok Sabha	9th Lok Sabha	10th Lok Sabha	11th Lok Sabha	12th Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly (1942-46)	3	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Constituent Assembly (1946-50)	3	3	1	1	Nil	Nil
Provisional Parliament (1950-52)	8	7	1	1	Nil	Nil
First Lok Sabha (1952-57)	12	11	3	2	1	Nil
Second Lok Sabha (1957-62)	22	17	7	5	5	4
Third Lok Sabha (1962-67)	33	22	7	9	5	6
Fourth Lok Sabha 1967-70)	66	39	23	24	13	10
Fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77)	119	73	45	34	18	16
Sixth Lok Sabha (1977-80)	143	63	91	52	41	36
Seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84)	-	237	131	118	71	59
Eighth Lok Sabha (1984-89)	-	-	162	149	78	74
Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91)	-	-	-	249	134	115
Tenth Lok Sabha (1991-96)	-	-	-	-	199	161
Eleventh Lok Sabha (1996-98)	-	-	-	-	-	253
Council of States (Rajya Sabha)	31	10	19	25	14	46
New Entrants	**150**	**264**	**264**	**183**	**276**	**217**

TABLE 7

STATEMENT SHOWING PRIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE IN LOK SABHA OF MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA

(BY TERMS)

Membership of the Lok Sabha	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Peren tage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
All the Eleven Lok Sabhas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ten Lok Sabhas (10 Terms)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nine Lok Sabhas (9 Terms)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.18
Eight Lok Sabhas (8 Terms)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.18	2	0.36
Seven Lok Sabhas (7 Terms)	–	–	1	0.18	–	–	3	0.59	2	0.36	3	0.55
Six Lok Sabhas (6 Terms)	2	0.36	4	0.73	2	0.39	4	0.79	5	0.92	10	1.83
Five Lok Sabhas (5 Terms)	7	1.28	7	12.86	6	1.16	7	1.38	11	2.03	21	3.85
Four Lok Sabhas (4 Terms)	11	2.02	10	1.83	11	2.13	26	5.12	31	5.7	21	3.85
Three Lok Sabhas (3 Terms)	21	3.86	25	4.59	37	7.16	48	9.45	26	4.78	47	8.62
Two Lok Sabhas (2 Terms)	58	10.66	57	10.47	75	14.51	89	17.52	74	13.62	76	13.94
One Lok Sabhas (1 Term)	117	21.5	166	30.51	122	23.6	143	28.15	95	17.49	147	26.97
	216		270		253		320		245		328	

in *Table 8*, there was an increase in the representation of m
had held such high offices. As many as 86 members of the
Sabha were Ministers in the Union Council of Ministers at
time or the other besides three former Prime Ministers. The c
figures in the Eleventh and Tenth Lok Sabhas were

TABLE 8

**MINISTERIAL POSITIONS OR OTHER PARLIAMENTARY
OFFICES HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK**

Office/Position
Chairman (Legislative Council)
Chairman/President/Sarpanch Municipal Body/ Municipal Council or Committee of Panchayat Samiti/ Zilla Parishad/Gram Panchayat
Chief Minister
Chief Whip (Parliament)
Chief Whip (State Legislature)
Deputy Chairman (Legislative Council)
Deputy Chairman (Rajya Sabha)
Deputy Mayor
Deputy Speaker (Assembly)
Deputy Speaker (Lok Sabha)
Governor
Leader of the House (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha)
Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha)
Leader of Opposition (State Legislature)
Mayor
Minister in the State
Municipal Councillor
Prime Minister
Speaker (Assembly)
Speaker (Lok Sabha)
Union Minister of State
Union Cabinet Minister
Union Deputy Minister
Vice-Chairman/Vice-President (Panchayat Samiti/Taluk Development Board

respectively. The number of members who were Ministers in the States was 98 (17.98 per cent). These apart, there were 6 former Governors, 18 former Chief Ministers, 2 former Speakers and 3 Deputy Speakers of the Lok Sabha, 7 former Speakers and 3 Deputy Speakers of the State Legislative Assemblies and one Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council.

Marital Status

Most of the members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha were married. Out of 535 respondent members, 512 were married constituting 95.7 per cent as compared to 94.45 per cent in the previous House. In comparison to 6.89 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha and 5.55 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, unmarried members accounted for 4.29 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Of the 23 unmarried members of the House, 19 were male and 4 were female.

New Members—A Profile

As mentioned earlier, in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, there were 217 members who had been elected to the Lower House for the first time. Out of 217, only 15 had experience in the Rajya Sabha, and therefore, 202 members had no previous experience in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Besides, there were 100 (18.34 per cent of the House) members who had no previous experience in Parliament or State Legislatures.

The average age of the new members was 48.84 as compared to 46.42 years of the whole House (on the basis of 210 respondent members). The youngest new comer was Shri Aditya Nath (25 years old) and the oldest Shri Virendra Verma (81 years old).

As far as educational qualification was concerned, out of 208 respondent members, 10 were Under Matriculates (4.8 per cent); 30 were Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders (14.42 per cent); 7 were Under-Graduates (3.36 per cent); 102 were Graduates (49.03 per cent); 48 were Post-Graduates (23.07 per cent); and 11 were Ph.D. holders (5.28 per cent). Taken together, members with Graduate degrees and above constituted about 77.38 per cent of the 208 new members who responded.

Agriculturists were the dominant group in the new members, category also. Their number was 126 constituting 59.71 per cent of the 211 respondents. There were 33 members with political and social workers as their profession (15.63 per cent) and 15 lawyers (7.1 per cent). Medical practitioners, teachers and educationists, as separate independent categories, had seven members each (3.31 per cent) among the new

members while writers/journalists as a group had 4 members (1.89 per cent). There were 5 members in the artists, category (2.36 per cent) and three each (1.42 per cent) from workers/trade unionists, traders and industrialists, and civil, police and military service categories. There was one member each (0.47 per cent) from the categories of judges, management consultants, religious missionaries, economists, and diplomats.

Among the new members, there were five former Union Ministers, four former Governors, five former Chief Ministers, two former Speakers of State Legislatures, one former Deputy Chairman of a State Legislative Council, 49 members who were Ministers in the States at various times, two former Mayors and 23 former Chairmen/Presidents of Zilla Parishads/Panchayat Samitis.

As far as marital status of the first timers was concerned, out of 211 respondents, only seven (3.31 per cent) were unmarried.

Women Members

The Twelfth Lok Sabha had as many as 44 women members, including one nominated member. The number of women members in the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas was 28, 44, 28, 36 and 40, respectively. (The Tenth Lok Sabha in the beginning had 36 members but their representation subsequently rose to 40.) *Table 9* and *Graph 5* indicate the representation of women members from the First to the Twelfth Lok Sabhas.

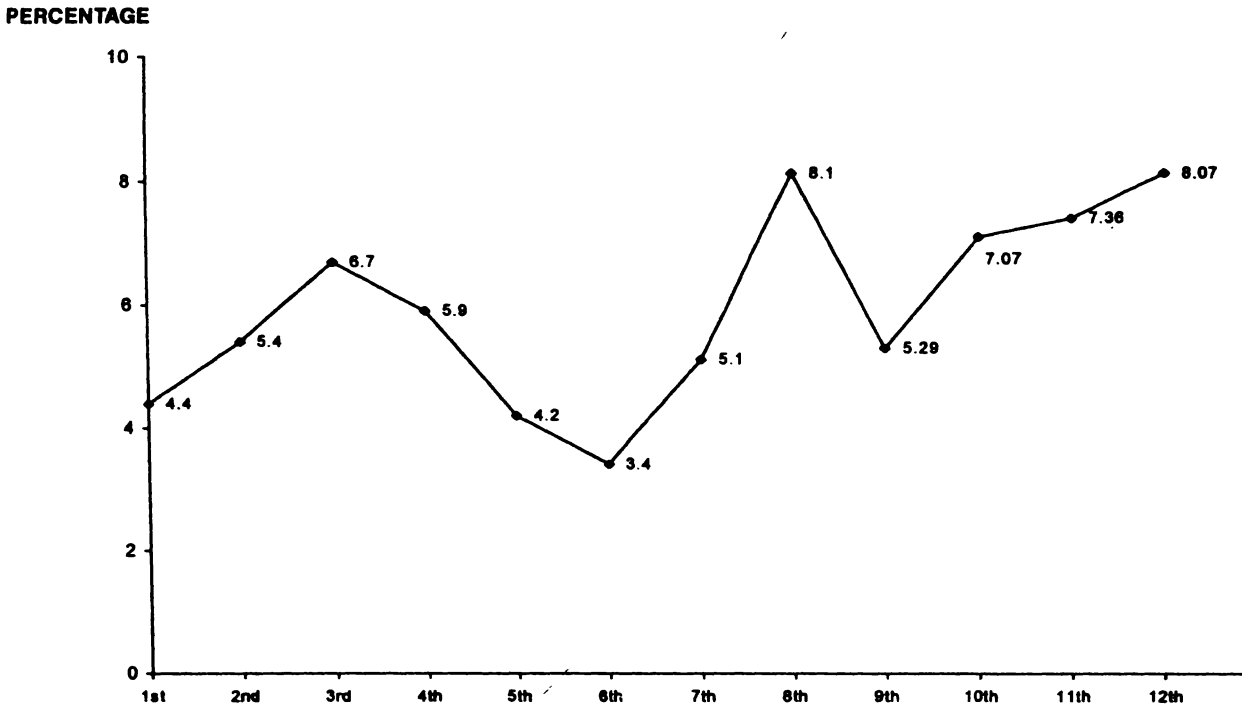
TABLE 9

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHAS

Lok Sabha	Total No. of Seats	No. of Women Members	Percentage to the total
First	499	22	4.4
Second	500	27	5.4
Third	503	34	6.7
Fourth	523	31	5.9
Fifth	521	22	4.2
Sixth	544	19	3.4
Seventh	544	28	5.1
Eighth	544	44	8.1
Ninth	529	28	5.29
Tenth	509	36	7.07
Eleventh	541	40*	7.36
Twelfth	545	44*	8.07

* including one nominated member

GRAPH 5: WOMEN MEMBERS, PERCENTAGE-WISE 1ST TO 12TH LOK SABHA



A comparative assessment of the age profiles of women members for the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards has been made in *Table 10*, after classifying them into eleven different age groups.

A study of the age profile of women members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha reveals that their average age was 48.22 years as against 46.42 years for their male counterparts (535 respondents).

From the view point of their representation also, the Twelfth Lok Sabha had 10 women members who belonged to the young group (i.e. members in the age group of 25-40 years). They constituted 22.72 per cent of the women membership. A comparative study of the age profile of women members from the Seventh to the Twelfth Lok Sabha reveals that the Twelfth Lok Sabha had representation from all the age groups. The members belonging to the 41-45 years age group had maximum representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, i.e., 27.27 per cent. The House had a lone representation in the age groups of 71-75 and 76-80.

A glance at the educational background of women members (*Table 11* and *Graph 6*) in the Twelfth Lok Sabha reveals that the number of educated women members is on the rise. Graduates, Post-Graduates and Doctorate degree holders taken together constituted 83.67 per cent of the 43 women respondents, compared to 69.44 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Taking each one as a single category, Graduates accounted for 37.2 per cent of women members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha compared to 38.88 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. In the Tenth and Ninth, they constituted 47.22 per cent and 37.04 per cent, respectively. Post-Graduates accounted for 39.5 per cent representation, the highest so far, as compared to 19.44 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Doctorate and other equivalent high academic degree holders had 6.97 per cent representation as compared to 11.11 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. The Under-Matriculates, Matriculates/ Intermediates and Under Graduates taken together had 16.26 per cent representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Table 12 indicates the pattern of distribution of women members from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards in accordance with their prior occupations. In this field, the general trend so far has been to have the maximum number of women members with political and social work as their major area of interest in contrast to their male counterparts among whom agriculturists form the majority. This trend was maintained in the Twelfth Lok Sabha in which the representation of the political and social workers was the highest with 40.90 per cent. This group had the largest representation in the Eleventh Lok Sabha (48.64 per cent) (out of 37 respondents). Women members with agriculture as profession consti-

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS, BY AGE GROUPS, FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHAS

Age Group	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
25-30 years	–	–	1	2.3	1	3.7	4	11.11	Nil	–	2	4.54
31-35 years	1	3.5	2	4.5	2	7.4	3	8.33	3	8.1	4	9.09
36-40 years	3	10.7	3	6.8	2	7.4	4	11.11	8	21.62	4	9.09
41-45 years	4	14.3	5	11.4	5	18.51	8	22.22	8	21.62	12	27.27
46-50 years	6	21.4	7	15.9	5	18.51	4	11.11	5	13.51	8	18.18
51-55 years	4	14.3	9	20.4	4	14.81	2	5.56	4	10.81	3	6.81
56-60 years	6	21.4	5	11.4	2	7.4	5	13.89	4	10.81	4	9.09
61-65 years	3	10.7	6	13.6	2	7.4	3	8.33	–	–	2	4.54
66-70 years	–	–	5	11.4	1	3.7	1	2.78	2	5.4	3	6.81
71-75 years	1	3.5	1	2.3	3	11.11	2	5.56	2	5.4	1	2.27
76-89 years	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2.7	1	2.27
Total No. of women members who supplied information	28		44		27		36		37		44	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543		545	

TABLE 11

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHAS

Educational level	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under-Matriculates	7	25	3	6.8	1	3.7	2	5.56	3	8.33	3	6.97
Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders	4	14.3	14	31.8	7	25.92	1	2.78	8	22.22	3	6.97
Under-Graduates	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	8.33	–	–	1	2.32
Grdaduates	9	32.1	14	31.8	10	37.04	17	47.22	14	38.88	16	37.2
Post-Graduates (including technical qualifications)	7	25	10	22.7	6	22.22	8	22.22	7	19.44	17	39.5
Doctorate Degree or other high academic qualification holders	1	3.5	3	6.8	3	11.11	5	13.89	7	11.11	3	6.97
Total number of women members who suplied information	28		44		27		36		36		43	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543		545	

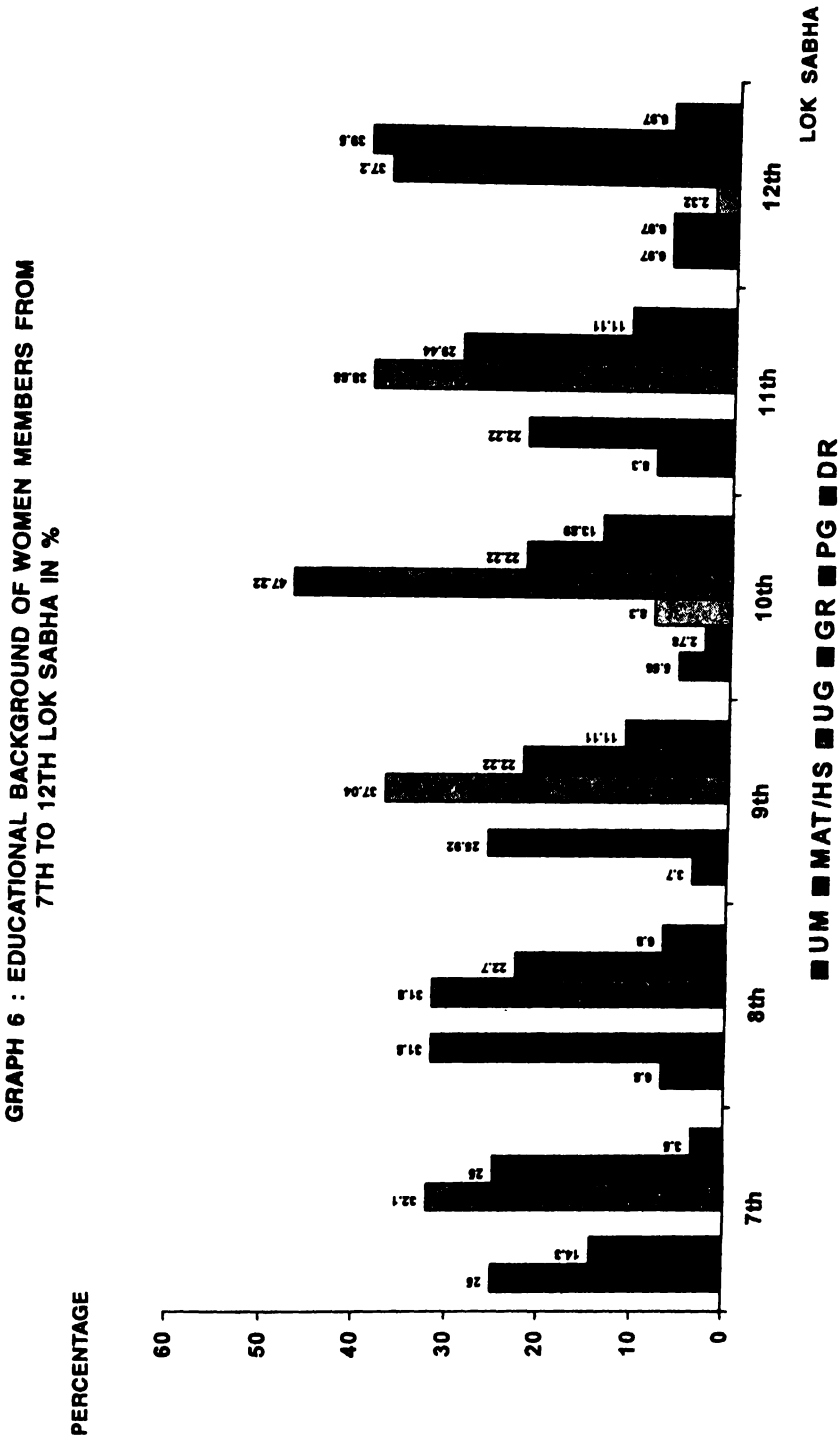

GRAPH 6 : EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM 7TH TO 12TH LOK SABHA IN %
PERCENTAGE
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
7th
8th
9th
10th
11th
12th
LOK SABHA
UM
MAT/HS
UG
GR
PG
DR
26
14.3
32.1
25
3.6
31.8
6.8
31.8
22.7
6.8
3.7
26.92
37.04
22.22
11.11
6.66
2.78
6.3
47.22
22.22
13.89
6.3
22.22
33.33
28.44
11.11
6.97
2.32
6.97
37.3
30.6
6.97

TABLE 12

DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA BY PRIO OCCUPATION

Prior Occupation	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Agriculturists	11	39.3	14	32.6	3	12	5	13.89	8	21.62	11	25
Artists/Film Artists	–	–	1	2.3	2	8	1	2.78	2	5.4	1	2.27
Business Persons	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2.78	–	–	1	2.27
Civil Police & Military Service	1	3.5	1	2.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Diplomats	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2.7	–	–
Former Rulers	–	–	1	2.3	–	–	1	2.78	–	–	–	–
Industrial Workers/ Trade Unionists	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
Journals/Writers	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	4	9.09
Lawyers	–	–	–	–	1	4	2	5.56	2	5.4	2	4.54
Medical Practitioners	–	–	1	2.3	–	–	1	2.78	–	–	2	4.54
Political & Social Workers	13	46.4	15	34.9	11	44	14	38.89	18	48.64	18	40.9
Religious Missionaries	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2.27
Teachers & Educationists	3	10.7	8	18.6	5	20	10	27.78	5	13.51	4	9.09
Traders & Industrialists	–	–	2	4.7	1	4	1	2.78	1	2.7	–	–
Total number of women members who supplied information	28		43		25		36		37		44	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543		545	

tuted the second major category. They had 25 per cent representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as compared to 21.62 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and 13.89 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. This group had the largest representation in the Seventh Lok Sabha (39.3 per cent out of 28 respondents). Journalists/writers, and teachers/educationists were two separate categories of women members with 9.09 per cent representation each. This apart, medical practitioners and lawyers had 4.54 per cent representation each in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. There was one woman member each from artists/film artists, business persons, and religious missionaries categories.

Previous legislative experience: In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, there were 44 women members (including one nominated) constituting 8.07 per cent of the total members of the Lok Sabha. Of this, as many as 23 (52.27 per cent) were elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time. In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, out of 37 of the 40 women members who responded to the survey, 19 were first timers while in the Tenth Lok Sabha 17 were new entrants out of a total of 36 women members. *Table 13* indicates the position regarding the previous legislative experience of the women members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. As may be seen, the House had 21-Members (47.72 per cent) having experience in the Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha and 5 (11.36 per cent) in State Legislatures. Eighteen (40.90 per cent) members had no experience in the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha or in State Legislatures.

TABLE 13

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA

Legislative Experience	Number of Members
Central Legislative Assembly	Nil
Constituent Assembly	Nil
Provisional Parliament	Nil
Lok Sabha	16
Rajya Sabha	5
Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha	5
Lok Sabha & State Legislatures	5
Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures	4
State Legislatures	5

Tables 14 and *15* indicate the position regarding the previous legislative experience of the women members of the Seventh, Eighth,

TABLE 14

STATEMENT SHOWING PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHAS IN CENTRAL/STATE LEGISLATURES

Legislatures	No. of Women Members					
	7th Lok Sabha	8th Lok Sabha	9th Lok Sabha	10th Lok Sabha	11th Lok Sabha	12th Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly (1942-46)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Constitutent Assembly (1946-50)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisional Parliament (1950-52)	-	-	-	-	-	-
First Lok Sabha (1952-57)	-	1	1	2	-	-
Second Lok Sabha (1957-62)	1	-	1	1	1	1
Third Lok Sabha (1962-67)	2	2	2	1	1	1
Fourth Lok Sabha (1967-70)	4	1	-	2	-	-
Fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77)	6	4	3	2	1	1
Sixth Lok Sabha (1977-79)	4	5	1	-	-	-
Seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84)	-	19	7	5	1	2
Eighth Lok Sabha (1984-89)	-	-	11	9	3	4
Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91)	-	-	-	11	7	3
Tenth Lok Sabha (1991-96)	-	-	-	-	14	9
Eleventh Lok Sabha (1996-97)	-	-	-	-	-	16
Rajya Sabha	2	4	3	3	1	5
State Legislatures	9	15	8	16	5	5
New entrants without any prior Legisalative experience	10	15	6	17	19	18

Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas. *Table 14* gives a picture of previous experience of women members Lok Sabha-wise, from the Seventh to the Twelfth Lok Sabha. As shown in the Table, there were 16 women members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha who were members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha also. There were nine such members who had experience of the Tenth Lok Sabha. The Twelfth Lok Sabha had five women members who had previous legislative experience in the Rajya Sabha while 18 women members were new entrants to the Lok Sabha without any prior legislative experience. From the *Table 15*, it may be seen that there were 21 women members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha who had experience of earlier Lok Sabha(s). There were as many as 10

Table 15

STATEMENT SHOWING PRIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA BY TERMS OF THE HOUSE

Membership of the Lok Sabha	7th Lok Sabha	8th Lok Sabha	9th Lok Sabha	10th Lok Sabha	11th Lok Sabha	12th Lok Sabha
All the Eleven Lok Sabha (11 Terms)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nine Lok Sabhas (9 Terms)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight Lok Sabhas (8 Terms)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seven Lok Sabhas (7 Terms)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Six Lok Sabhas (6 Terms)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Five Lok Sabhas (5 Terms)	-	-	-	1	1	1
Four Lok Sabhas (4 Terms)	-	-	-	2	1	-
Three Lok Sabhas (3 Terms)	3	2	4	1	-	4
Two Lok Sabhas (2 Terms)	2	6	5	5	4	5
One Lok Sabhas (1 Term)	4	13	4	9	11	10
	9	21	13	18	17	21
Total women members	28	44	27	36	39*	44*

* Including one nominated member

members with experience of one term in the Lok Sabha as compared to 11 in the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

The women members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha had the distinction of having among themselves one former Union Cabinet Minister and three Union Ministers of State. Three women members were also Ministers in the State while two were former Mayors and one Deputy Major. Besides, there was a former Chairperson of a Zilla Parishad and a Chairperson of a Municipality.

Conclusion

This study is an attempt to make out the direction of changes taking place in the composition of the Lok Sabha over the years. It gives an idea about the major contours of change in the constitution of our highest representative institution. The study concentrates on certain criteria, like the age, education, profession, previous legislative experience of the members, marital status, etc. Information supplied by members themselves on these broad areas form the basis of this study. This study does not include parameters like caste, class, religion or income background even though they may be useful in deeply understanding the composition of the House. With this limitation, the study has set forth before itself the task of making an overview of the socio-economic profile of the membership of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. While parameters like education and occupational background of members are directly relevant to the socio-economic nature of the composition of the membership of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, data like age, marital status, etc., will act as pointers to the general profile of membership. Basically, statistical and comparative methods have been adopted in making this study.

It is pertinent to once again mention here that the bio-data of 545 members constitute the basis of this study even while information is not complete in respect of certain parameters. An analysis of the facts and figures has revealed certain interesting features of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Age factor has been one of the major indicators in having an idea about the structure of the Lok Sabha. Indeed, the age profile of the members of the Lok Sabha has always been a major aspect of the socio-economic study. As its predecessor, the Twelfth Lok Sabha also showed more inclination towards the middle-aged members (41-55 years). Besides, in terms of averages, the Twelfth Lok Sabha with an average of 46.42 years, was the youngest House so far.

Judging by educational background, over the years, the Lok Sabha has graduated to a more educated House with the rise in the educa-

tional level of members. In the first Lok Sabha, about 23.2 per cent of members were Under-Matriculates. This figure has come down to 2.26 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. With 77.49 per cent of its members having educational qualifications of the level of graduation and above, the Twelfth Lok Sabha stood next only to the Ninth Lok Sabha which was the most educated House with 78.23 per cent members having done graduation and above. This shows that more and more educated persons are placing themselves as candidates before the electorate.

Another important aspect is the occupational representation in the House. Here, it may be mentioned that it is not always easy to find members' actual professions, particularly when a member might have taken up or engaged in different professions at various stages of his or her life or many professions at one time. While conducting this study, many members were found to be engaged in a variety of professions; for example, a member may be an agriculturist or industrialist and at the same time a lawyer or a medical practitioner. In such cases, the first preference indicated by the member was taken into consideration.

One of the most significant developments in the occupational composition of the Lok Sabha between the first and the Twelfth Lok Sabhas has been the gradual replacement of lawyer members by agriculturists. From a position of being the largest professional group in the First Lok Sabha, lawyers as a group were pushed down to the third position in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Almost half the members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha were agriculturists by profession.

There was an increase in the representation of women in the Twelfth Lok Sabha which is an indication of the political empowerment of women.

An analysis of the socio-economic profiles of the members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha thus reveals that there is a continued transfer of political power from the urban elite to the rural masses. This is perhaps in tune with the reality of India being a country of villages and the changing power shift in national politics.

6

THE SECOND REPORT OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE RAJYA SABHA

On 4 March 1997, the then Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha , Shri K.R. Narayanan constituted an Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and to examine the cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of members. Shri S.B. Chavan, M.P., was appointed its Chairman. The rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges were made applicable to the Ethics Committee with such variations and modifications as the Chairman, Rajya Sabha might from time to time, make. The First Report of the Ethics Committee was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 8 December 1998*. In this report the Committee, *inter alia,* suggested a framework of a Code of Conduct for the members of the Rajya Sabha. It was also mentioned in the Report that the Committee would consider in its subsequent reports the procedure for making a complaint to the Committee or taking up a matter *suo moto* by it, the mechanism for investigation of a complaint and the question of providing penalties for the violation of the code.

Before presenting the Second Report, the Committee studied in detail various aspects of the rules and procedure being followed by the Ethics Committees or such like institutions existing in some other countries. The Committee visited the Parliament of South Africa between 9 and 12 February 1999 to know about the functioning of the Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests of the National Parliament of South Africa. The Committee also interacted with the National Public Protector of the Republic of South Africa. The Committee further discussed various aspects of the procedure with the Leaders of Political Parties.

On 13 December 1999, the Chairman, Ethics Committee, Shri S.B. Chavan presented the Second Report in the Rajya Sabha. On 15 December 1999, the Rajya Sabha agreed with the recommendations

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* For details of the First Report, *see The Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. XLV, No. 1, March 1999, pp. 21-27

contained in the First Report of the Ethics Committee and the Second Report of the Committee. Both the Reports were adopted the same day. The main recommendations made by the Committee in their Second Report are as follows:

Register of Members' Interests

The Committee was of the view that the interest of members in matters before Parliament should be in the public domain. In order to enable members to register their interests, the Committee was of the view that a 'Register of Members' Interests' be maintained under its authority or the authority of the House. This Register may be made available to members for inspection. In the interest of total transparency, the Committee felt that the information contained in the Register may be given to the general public in accordance with the arrangements the details of which will be worked out by the Committee and on payment of such charges as may be determined by the Committee from time to time.

For the purpose of inclusion in the Register, every member may be required to furnish information annually relating to any pecuniary interest or other material benefits which he receives to the Committee or to an official authorised by it in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Committee from time to time for being included in the Register. The term 'pecuniary interests' and 'other material benefits' shall include assets and liabilities; remunerated employment; shareholding and directorship; consultancy and sponsorship, etc. The definition of these terms will be finalised by the Committee after consulting the political parties, etc. A member may be required to furnish such information as may relate to the pecuniary interests and which might be reasonably construed to influence his actions, speeches or votes in the House or Committees thereof or actions taken in his capacity as a member of Parliament.

The Committee was also of the view that very member may be required to notify changes, if any, in the information so furnished by him within ninety days of such changes occurring to the Committee or the official authorised by it. Information furnished by the member will be laid on the Table of the House at the commencement of the next session. In case a member does not furnish the required information or furnishes information which is found to be incorrect in material respects, the Committee may report the matter to the House.

Declaration of Interests

There are occasions when a member may have direct, indirect or specific pecuniary interest in a matter being considered by the House

or a Committee thereof. In such case, he may declare the nature of such interest notwithstanding any registration of his interests in the Register and desist from participating in any such debate or vote taking place in the House or its Committees before making such declaration.

Procedure for making complaint

The Committee was of the view that a proper and well publicised procedure must be established to deal with complaints and allegations against members regarding alleged ethical misconduct in the interest of fairness and transparency. The Committee was of the view that while any person may be permitted to make a complaint regarding alleged ethical misconduct by a member or alleged incorrect information furnished by a member with regard to his interests, if a person makes complaint to the Committee, he should declare his identity and submit supporting evidence, documentary or otherwise, to substantiate his allegations. The Committee would not disclose the name of the complaint, if so requested, provided such a request was accepted by the Committee. The Committee would wish to make it clear that a complaint based merely on a media report will not be treated by it as a substantiated allegation. The Committee would also not go into any matter which is *sub judice.* The Committee may, however, take up matters *suo motu*; and members may also refer cases to the Committee. A complaint may be addressed in writing to the Committee or to an officer authorised by it in such form and manner as the Committee may specify.

Procedure for Inquiry

If the Committee arrives at a decision that a complaint is in proper form and is within its jurisdiction, it would take up the matter for preliminary inquiry. After conducting the preliminary inquiry, if the Committee finds that there is no *prima facie* case or the complaint is false and vexatious, the matter may be dropped. If a complaint is found to be false or vexatious and has been made *mala fide,* the matter would be taken up by the Committee as an issue of breach of parliamentary privilege. If it is found that there is a *prima facie* case, the matter may be taken up for examination and report. The Committee would frame rules from time to time for regulating the procedure for conducting inquiries either by it or an officer under its authority.

Penalties

The Committee believed that a well functioning Ethics Committee and well laid out procedures are the best guarantee for a correct perception in the public mind regarding the ethical conduct of members.

The Committee is of the view that it will only be in the rarest of rare cases that the question of having to recommend imposition of a penalty should need to arise. However, if the Committee finds that a member had indulged in an unethical or other misconduct and has contravened the code/rules, it may recommend to the House the imposition of one or more of the following penalties: (a) censure; (b) reprimand; (c) suspension from the House for a specific period; and (d) any other penalty considered appropriate by it.

7

EXHIBITION ON "DEMOCRATIC AND PARLIAMENTARY HERITAGE OF INDIA"

PMA*

On 8 December 1999, a pictorial Exhibition entitled "Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India", was inaugurated by the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi in Parliament House Annexe. The Exhibition coincided with the Orientation Programme for the new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha organised by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training from 8 to 16 December 1999.

The Exhibition depicted the history and growth of the parliamentary system in India with the aid of photographs, write-ups, quotations, charts, press headlines and diagrams. The main areas covered in the Exhibition were ancient and modern democratic institutions in India, freedom movement, transfer of power, adoption of the Constitution of India, offices of the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Presiding Officers and Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs since 1947, present leaders of various political parties in the Lok Sabha and some important activities of Parliament. Another interesting feature of the Exhibition was the display and demonstration of information management systems available for members of Parliament like microfilming, and audio-visual and computer systems now in use in the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Exhibition traced the democratic heritage of India from the Vedic Age (3000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.) where in the *Sabha* and the *Samiti* may be said to have contained rudiments of a modern Parliament. The great epic *Mahabharata* (1500 B.C.), Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (400 B.C.), *Manusmriti* (200 B.C.– 200 A.D.) and writings of contemporary Buddhist and Jain scholars contain numerous references to the existence of a number of functioning republics during the post-Vedic period. The political organisations towards the end of the Vedic period paved the way for the emergence of several territorial states in different parts of the country.

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* Contributed by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) Division of the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS)

The idea of *Janapada* (territory) got gradually strengthened and by 600 B.C. there were 16 major States (*Mahajanapadas*), and among them *Kashi, Kosala, Magadha* and the *Uajjian* confederacy remained important republics in ancient India. One of the unique democratic institutions which evolved in ancient India has been the Panchayat system at the village level. During the medieval periods, the polity in large parts of India was basically monarchical. However, irrespective of the forms of Government all over the country, the village societal structure remained almost unchanged, as village communities in their local affairs continued to be governed by some sort of Village Councils or Panchayats.

The Exhibition highlighted the organic growth of the parliamentary institutions on the Indian soil. They grew through many relentless struggles for freedom from foreign rule and for the establishment of free democratic institutions. The first move towards Indian legislative institutions appears to have been initiated in the Charter Act of 1833. The Act separated the legislative functions of the State from its Executive functions. Every legislative proposal began to travel through three stages – First, Second and Third Readings – before it was adopted.

The exhibits under the sector, "Movement for Freedom and Democratic Institutions" focused on the Revolt of 1857 which had shaken the foundations of the British rule in India and compelled the foreign rulers to associate Indians with the authority and decentralise authority in their own interests. The Indian Councils Act, 1861 set in motion a scheme of legislative devolution in India. The representation of the Indian public began under the Act. However, the Act reached nowhere near the people's aspirations for a more representative legislative body. The Indian Councils Act of 1892 sought to give Indians "a real living representation in the Legislative Council. The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 introduced the principle of election and representation. The Government of India Act, 1919 established a bicameral Legislature at the Centre—the Governor-General and the two Houses, namely the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly. The Nationalist Movement between 1920 and 1935 led to the enactment of the Government of India Act, 1935. The Act envisaged federalism and development of parliamentary institutions.

The Exhibition included photographs of earlier freedom fighters like Babu Kunwar Singh, Nana Saheb, Rani Chennamma of Kittur, Tantya Tope, Velu Thampi (Dewan of Travancore), Begum Hazrat Mahal of Lucknow, Birsa Munda, Mir Qasim, Rani Laxmi Bai and Bahadur Shah Zafar. It also included photographs of socio-religious reformers, revolutionary patriots and other freedom fighters.

The depiction of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's famous speech "Tryst

with Destiny" during the midnight of 14-15 August 1947 in the Central Hall supported by photographs formed part of the Exhibition.

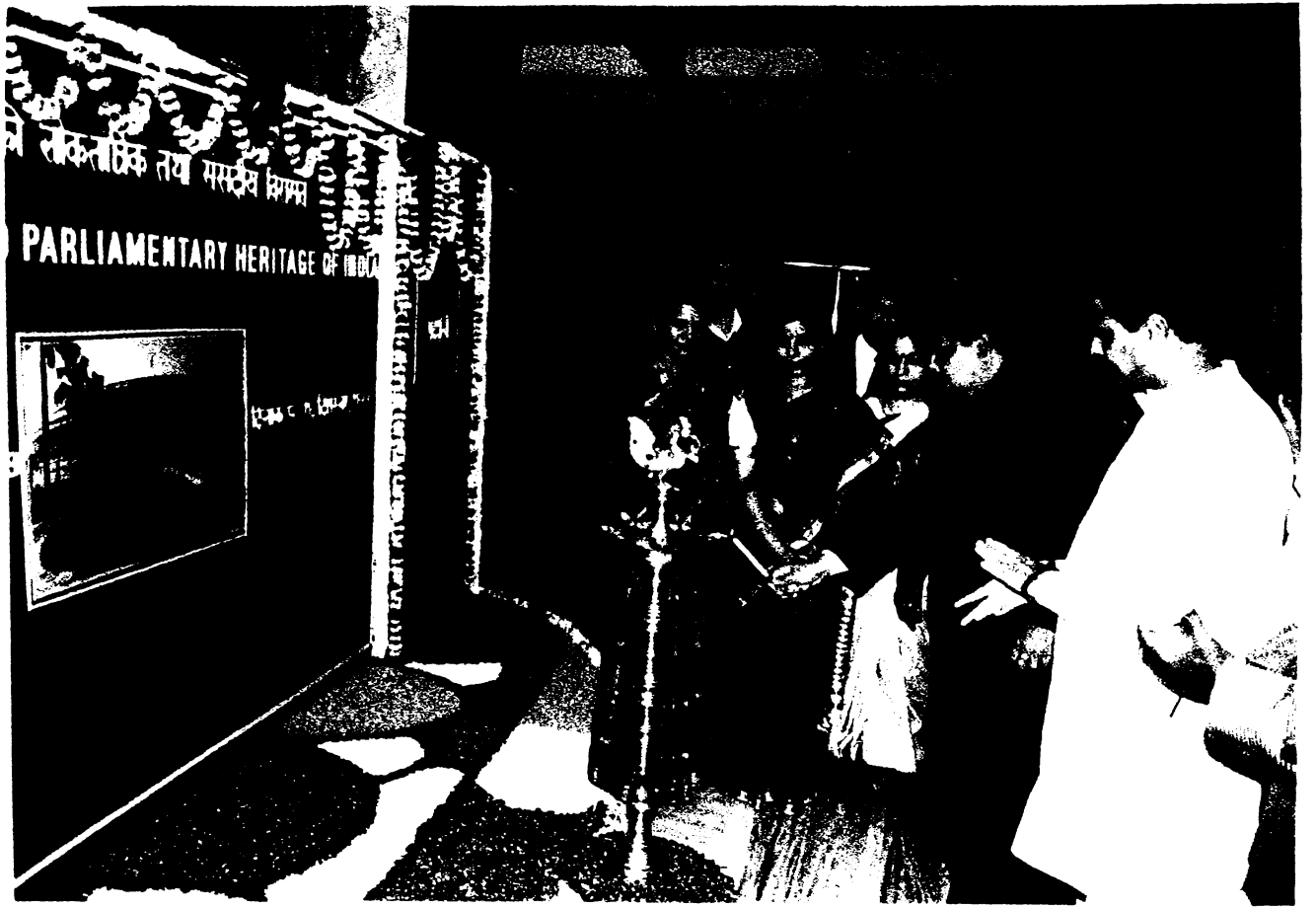
In a democratic system, people have got the right to devise their own system of governance without any outside interference. They enjoy the inalienable right of framing their own Constitution suited to their genius, ethos and aspirations. The task of framing the Constitution of India was performed by the Constituent Assembly of India. The main features of the Constituent Assembly were highlighted in the Exhibition with the help of photographs taken at the time of signing of the Constitution, photographs of women members of the Constituent Assembly, etc. Other details like sittings of the Constituent Assembly were shown graphically.

The Exhibition contained a chart on the Indian federal system depicting at the top the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the two Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court and down below names of States/Union territories (UT) and under each State/UT, the number of districts, municipalities and villages. A map showing the total number of Assembly seats in each State and bicameral system in States was also exhibited.

Every citizen of India who is eighteen years or more has voting rights irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. The Constitution provides direct election to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies. The members of the Rajya Sabha are the representatives of the States and the Union territories. Exhibits on the electoral system were also displayed in the Exhibition. A chart showing the strength of various political parties in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha was also displayed. The photographs of women members of the 13th Lok Sabha displayed at the Exhibition were of special interest to the visitors.

In order to throw light on the activities of Parliament, the Exhibition highlighted the various devices available to the members to raise matters of urgent public importance in the House; information about various committees; photographs of Presidential procession; presentation of Budget; and presentation of Awards to Outstanding parliamentarians. The Bills passed, Parliamentary Questions asked, Sittings held and time spent on various kinds of business and reports presented by various committees were shown graphically. The Exhibition also contained photographs of foreign parliamentary delegations visited India and important functions organised in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

Many dignitaries, including Ministers, members of Parliament and



The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi inaugurating the Exhibition 'Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India' in Parliament House Annexe on 8 December 1999

State Assemblies visited the Exhibition and commended the efforts made. The Lok Sabha Speaker Shri G.M.C. Balayogi felt that the Exhibition was "an interesting and remarkable display on Parliament", while Shri Swai Singh Sisodia, former Minister of State for Finance observed that the "Millennium Exhibition is a commendable effort". Shri M.V. Venkatappa, Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly remarked that it was a "wonderful exhibition that 'recounts the memories of Parliament from 1947'. Shri K.R. Prasad, Secretary, Election Commission of India described it as an "Informative and exhaustive display of the Constitution makers".

The Exhibition was organised by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) in collaboration with the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP).

8

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference: The 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference was held in Berlin, Germany from 11 to 16 October 1999. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri O.P. Kohli, Drupad Borogohain, Dr. Y.K. Alagh, Smt. Veena Verma, Prof.(Miss) Bharati Ray and Miss Mabel Rebello, all members of Parliament and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi.

The Conference mainly discussed and adopted Declarations/ Resolutions on the following subjects:

(i) Contribution of Parliaments to Ensuring Respect for and Promoting International Humanitarian Law on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions;

(ii) The Need to Revise the Current Global, Financial and Economic Model; and

(iii) The Contribution of Parliaments to the Peaceful coexistence of Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Minorities, including Migrant Populations, within one state, marked by tolerance and the full respect for their human rights.

Besides, the Conference held General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, in which 153 speakers took part.

Dr. Y.K. Alagh, MP and one of the Indian Delegates to the above Conference was elected as a Rapporteur of the Drafting Committee for the subject "the Need to Revise the Current Global, Financial and Economic Model".

One of the important features of this Conference was the unanimous election of the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council.* Dr. (Smt.) Najma

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* For details *see* Short Note "Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla—the First Woman President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union" in *the Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLV, No. 3, September 1999, pp. 308-16

Heptulla is the first Woman President of the IPU in its 110-year history. She is the second President from the Asia-Pacific region to be elected to this high office after Dr. G.S. Dhillon, the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha who was its President during 1973-76.

Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on "Health of the Vulnerable Populations": A Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on "Health of the Vulnerable Populations" was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 1 to 3 November 1999. The Conference was organised by the International Medical Parliamentarians Organisation (IMPO) in cooperation with the World Health Organisations – South-East Asia Region Office (WHO-SEARO) and the National Parliament of Nepal.

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation attended the above Conference. The members of the Delegation were Shri Lachhman Singh, Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil, Dr. Ashok Patel, Dr.(Smt.) V. Saroja and Dr.(Miss) Girija Vyas, all members of Parliament. Shri Joginder Singh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference was organised with an objective to raise the level of awareness among the parliamentarians regarding: (i) the current status of the health of the vulnerable populations; (ii) the urgent need to raise their health status; and (iii) to secure a higher priority for the health of vulnerable populations in the national, political and development agendas.

The Conference mainly discussed the following subjects:

(i) Health and Development: Poverty and Health;

(ii) Identification of the Vulnerable Population Groups;

(iii) Priority Health Needs of the Vulnerable Populations;

(iv) Mobilization of Resources for the Health of the Vulnerable Population; and

(v) Role of Parliamentarians in Improving the Health Status of the Vulnerable Populations.

7th General Assembly of the Aisa-Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on "Environment and Development": The 7th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on 'Environment and Development' (APPCED) was held at Chiang Mai, Thailand from 20 to 23 November 1999 at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Conference was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The other members of

the Delegation were; Sarvashri S.R. Bommai, B. Nagi Reddy, Ram Das Aggarwal, Colonel Sona Ram Choudhary, all members of Parliament and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha.

The main theme of the General Assembly was 'Waste Treatment and Garbage Disposal in the City'. The Assembly focused on domestic wastes, covering all kinds of waste and management of garbage disposal. Participants at the Assembly addressed the technological, socio-economic policy, legal and parliamentary aspects of the issue. The Conference also focused on clean production in debating the green technology. The parliamentary dimensions of the theme addressed the issues of public participation; instruments and information; economic incentives; and privatization.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi presented at the Conference a Country Paper in respect of India on "Sustainable Development in the context of Environment and Development."

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi was unanimously nominated as the Vice Chairman of the above Conference, which was attended by nearly 100 delegates from 24 countries. Shri S.R. Bommai, was elected as a member of the Drafting Committee for the Chiang Mai Declaration.

At the above Conference, it was also decided that the 'Millenium Conference' of the APPCED will be held in India some time in October-November 2000.

Round Table Meeting of Parliamentarians to Combat Desertification: A Round Table Meeting of Parliamentarians was held in Recife, Brazil from 22 to 23 November 1999 during the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification in Dakar, Senegal. The Meeting was organised and sponsored by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The focus of the Meeting was on the role of Parliaments in designing educational, scientific and cultural policies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Dr. U. Venkateswarlu, MP from India attended the above Meeting.

The Declaration adopted at the Meeting was an important step forward in the process of implementing the Convention.

Felicitation function in honour of Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on her election as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council: Under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG), a felicitation function in the honour of the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma

Heptulla on her election as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council was held in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi, on 15 December 1999.

The distinguished gathering at the above function was addressed by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C Balayogi. Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla replied to the felicitation.

Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 1997 and 1998: A function to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for 1997 and 1998 on Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee and S. Jaipal Reddy, was held on 17 December 1999 in the Central Hall, Parliament House. Conferring the Awards, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant addressed the distinguished gathering. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also addressed the gathering.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the IPG to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 October to 31 December 1999.

Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: On the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi, a function was held on 2 October 1999. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a function was held on 31 October 1999. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a function was held on 5 November 1999. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a function was held on 11 November 1999. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, a function was held on 14 November 1999. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Smt. Indira Gandhi: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, a function was held on 19 November 1999. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a function was held on 3 December 1999. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, a function was held on 10 December 1999.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri Rajagopalachari.

Chaudhary Charan Singh: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a function was held on 23 December 1999. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya, a function was held on 25 December 1999. Members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period from 1 October to 31 December 1999, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes:

Orientation Programme : An Orientation Programme for the new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was organised from 8 to 16 December 1999. It was attended by 169 members of the Lok Sabha, the average attendance being over 87 per session. In additon to the 150 out of 171 new members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, 19 other members with some previous experience of serving either House of Parliament also attended the Programme. The Programme was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 8 December 1999. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed delivered the Welcome Address. The Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan, also addressed the participants. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra extended a Vote of Thanks.* The Valedictory Session was held on 16 December 1999. The Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan delivered the Valedictory Address. The Deputy Speaker,

* For the text of the Addresses by the dignitaries at the inaugural function, *see* pp. 5-13.

Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed and the Hony. Advisor, BPST, Prof. Ram Kapse also addressed the Session.

Fifteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The Fifteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting began on 18 November 1999, and concluded on 28 January 2000. The Programme was of ten weeks' duration. Twelve participants from various Afro-Asian countries, *viz.* one each from the Republic of Korea, Sudan, Sri Lanka and Zambia: two each from Bangladesh and Uzbekistan and four from South Africa attended the Programme. Three officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat and one officer each from Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Secretariats also attended the Programme.

The Programme was designed to equip the parliamentary officials with basic concepts, skills and techniques required for drafting legislation so that they could assist members of Parliament whenever required.

Computer Training Programmes: The following Computer Training Programmes were organised: (i) Computer Training for the staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat (11 to 15 October 1999); and (ii) Computer Appreciation Programme for members of Parliament (27 to 29 October 1999).

Attachment Programmes: The following Attachment Programmes were organised: (i) for two Chairpersons and four senior officers of the Parliament of Tanzania (8 to 13 November 1999); and for the Chairpersons and senior officers of the Parliament of Tanzania (20 to 24 December 1999); (ii) for the Senior Superintendent of Police, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Mr. Eric D.P. Perera (20 November to 1 December 1999); and (iii) for Operations Manager, Mr. I. Munasinghe and Director Finance, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Mr. D.P. Dahanayake, (29 December 1999 to 5 January 2000).

Appreciation Course: An Appreciation Course in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures was organised for Professors/Lecturers of Universities/ Colleges from 25 to 29 October 1999.

Study Visits: Six study visits were organised for the participants from various leading training/educational institutions.

9

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

Alleged misleading of the House by the Prime Minister: On 8 December 1999, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, member, gave a notice of question of privilege against the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee contending that the Prime Minister while responding to submissions made by the members regarding the Babri Masjid demolition issue in the House on 7 December 1999, did not share with the House the information regarding tendering of resignations by two Ministers, namely, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani and the Minister of Human Resource Development, Science and Technology and Ocean Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. The member further stated that the Prime Minister, however, shared this information with the media after adjournment of the House. The member, while contending that this amounted to insult as well as contempt of the House, also sought to raise the matter in the House that day.

Disallowing the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi *inter alia* observed:

> "... It is well established that no privilege of Parliament is involved if statements on matter of public interest are not first made in the House and are made outside ...
>
> Hence the instant matter does not involve any breach of privilege and contempt of the House. I, therefore, withhold my consent to the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev."

Alleged misleading of the House by a member. On 9 December 1999, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, member, gave a notice of question of privilege against Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, another member, for having deliberately misled the House. Shri Malhotra, in his notice of question of privilege, said that Shri Reddy, while speaking in the House on 8 December 1999, had stated that "in the last 50 years no Minister ever held the post if he was charge-sheeted". Shri Malhotra contended that that was a deliberate attempt to mislead the House. In support of his contention, he stated that in 1980, when Smt. Indira Gandhi was sworn

in as the Prime Minister, she was an accused and had been charge-sheeted in the 'Jeep Scandal'. Shri Malhotra sought permission of the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi to raise the matter in the House as a privilege issue against Shri Reddy for having deliberately misled the House.

On 10 December 1999, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra sought to raise the matter in the House. The Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed withheld his consent to the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra. In this context, the Deputy Speaker observed:

> '. . . (As per records) the actual words used by Shri S. Jaipal Reddy were as follows:
>
> "I would like the Honourable Prime Minister to tell us whether, in his knowledge, a single person facing charge-sheet anywhere in the country was allowed to remain a Minister in the last 50 years. . ."

It would be seen from the above that Shri S. Jaipal Reddy merely put forth an poser to the Prime Minister and did not make any categorical statement as alleged by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Hence the contention of Shri Malhotra that Shri Reddy made an untrue statement in the House and sought to deliberately mislead the House does not hold good. Therefore, no privilege issue against Shri Reddy can be said to be made out. . .'

STATE LEGISLATURES

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Alleged distortion of the Proceedings of the House by a newspaper: On 2 July 1996, Shri Rabin Deb, member, gave notice of question of privilege and contempt of the House against Shri M.J. Akbar, Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director of an English daily, *The Asian Age,* for allegedly distorting the proceedings of the House. The member, in his notice of question of privilege, alleged that the newsitem published in *The Asian Age* of 2 July 1996 regarding the report on the functioning of the erstwhile Wakf Board was deliberately distorted and was designed to malign and defame the Presiding Officer of the House. The member contended that in the above newsitem captioned "Report reveals illegal transfers", the name of the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim had been mentioned by way of an insinuation.

The Speaker, while observing that a *prima facie* case of breach of

privilege and contempt of the House was made out, referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report. The Speaker also directed the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat to have the views of the Editor-in-Chief and the Chief of Bureau of *The Asian Age* in the matter.

The Committee of Privileges, after considering the written replies of the Editor-in-Chief and the Chief of Bureau of *The Asian Age* and after examining them in person, in their first Report presented to the House on 27 March 1998, reported that the explanations furnished by Shri M.J. Akbar, Editor-in-Chief, *The Asian Age* as well as by Shri Dibyojyoti Basu, Chief of Bureau, were both evasive and contradictory and had thus decided to hear them in person. In his oral evidence, Shri Dibyojyoti Basu admitted that the contents of the aforesaid newsitem were not at par with that of Shri P.K. Sengupta's report and regretted that it was a technical fault. Shri M.J. Akbar, in his deposition before the Committee, admitted the fault and tendered his regret for the unintentional publication of the erroneous news in question. In view of these submissions, the Committee directed Shri Akbar to publish within seven days a corrigendum to the effect that the contents of the aforesaid news item were erroneous. Accordingly, on 24 February 1997, *The Asian Age* published a newsitem under the caption "Wakf Report did not name Halim" stating that Shri P.K. Sengupta's report on the transfer of Wakf property, which the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu tabled in the Assembly on 1 July 1996, confirmed the defalcation of Wakf properties in the State but did not mention the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim by name, nor there was any specific insinuation about his involvement in the particular Wakf scam.

The Committee also took oral evidence of Shri Sultan Ahmed, member, who, according to the news report, was the main source of the newsitem in question. Shri Sultan Ahmed, during his evidence before the Committee, strongly denied the charge and clarified that he had not mentioned anything regarding Shri Sengupta's report to any reporter. He further stated that reporters of several dailies came in the Chamber of the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly where he took part in the general discussion on the corruption in the Wakf Board.

The Committee, after taking into account the whole gamut of things, found the newspaper guilty of committing a breach of privilege and contempt of the House. In view of the candid apology tendered by Shri Akbar and Shri Basu, the Committee recommended to drop the matter. The Committee, however, felt that the concerned newspaper should be

more alert and cautious while publishing matters regarding the proceedings of the House.

The Report of the Committee was taken up for consideration in the House on 30 March 1998. During the consideration of the Report, Shri Rabin Deb, moved the following motion:

> After consideration of the report of the Committee the House accepts the findings of the Committee in respect of the offence committed but finds that no apology has been tendered and as such refers back to the Committee the report for a review of the quantum of punishment to be awarded.

The motion was unanimously adopted by the House. The Committee of Privileges (1997-98), accordingly, reviewed all the aspects of the case and found that though Shri M.J. Akbar, Editor-in-Chief admitted his fault and expressed regret for allegedly publishing distorted proceedings of the House, he did not apologise for the same, which the nature and gravity of the offence demanded. The Committee of Privileges, after reviewing all aspects of the case, in their Third Report, presented to the House on 30 June 1998 *inter alia* reported as follows:

> As Shri M.J. Akbar has committed a breach of privilege and contempt of the House and has not tendered apology for the same which the nature and gravity of the offence committed demand, the Committee recommend, that Shri Akbar may be summoned to the Bar of the House and the quantum of the punishment may be decided by the House as it may deem fit and proper.

The said Third Report of the Committee of Privileges was considered and adopted by the House.

Thereupon, on a motion moved by Shri Rabin Deb, member, in the House on 6 July 1998, it was resolved that Shri M.J. Akbar be summoned to the Bar of the House for receiving such punishment as decided by the House in its next session on a date fixed by the Speaker. Accordingly, in the next session, Shri M.J. Akbar was personally served summons to appear before the Bar of the House to receive punishment on 23 December 1998. Shri Akbar neither appeared nor sent any intimation explaining his non-appearance. Thereafter, a resolution that the issue would be taken up in its next session by the House, was agreed to unanimously by the House.

In the subsequent session, the Speaker decided that Shri M.J. Akbar be summoned to appear before the Bar of the House on

5 April 1999. On 5 April 1999, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following resolution:

> "Whereas on the recommendations of the Committee of Privileges, (1997-1998) West Bengal Legislative Assembly, as contained in its Third Report presented to the House on 30 June 1998, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly at its sitting held on 6 July 1998 resolved that Shri M.J. Akbar, the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, *The Asian Age* be summoned to the Bar of the House for awarding punishment to be decided by the House;
>
> And whereas this House is of the opinion that Shri M.J. Akbar, the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, *The Asian Age*, has deliberately distorted the proceedings of the House which has brought the office of the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly to indignity and constitutes contempt of the House.
>
> And whereas this House is pained to note that a citizen of India like Shri M.J. Akbar should have been so at fault and unapologised therefor.
>
> This House, therefore, resolves that Shri M.J. Akbar, the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, *The Asian Age* be reprimanded and sentenced to confinement till the adjournment of the House for the grave act of misdemeanour for which he bears the responsibility in committing the contempt of this House."

The resolution was adopted by the House. Shri Akbar was then brought to the Bar of the House, reprimanded and sentenced to detention till the adjournment of the House.

10

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instance when the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, on relinquishing office, was appointed Honorary Officer of the House: On 14 July 1999, Shri S. Gopalan relinquished the office of Secretary-General on completion of his term during the interregnum between the dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha and the constitution of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. The Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi appointed him as an Honorary Officer of the House and the information in this regard was published in the Gazette of India dated 31 July 1999. However, no reference was made in the House in this regard.

Instance when Parliamentary papers were supplied to the Offices of Parties in the Lok Sabha: On the constitution of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, it was decided that Parliamentary papers in Hindi and English might be supplied to the offices of Parties in the Lok Sabha having combined strength of ten members and above in both the Houses of Parliament or at least five members in the Lok Sabha.

In pursuance of the above decision, papers were supplied to the offices of parties in the Lok Sabha with the requisite prescribed strength.

Instance when oath was taken by members in their mother tongue: The First Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha commenced from 20 October 1999. Earlier on 9 October 1999, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, member elected from Madhubani constituency of Bihar, made a written request that he might be permitted to take oath in his mother tongue, *viz. Maithili.* He also furnished a hand written text of the oath in *Maithili.*

Another member, Shri Kirti Azad, elected from Darbhanga constituency of Bihar *vide* his option form dated 10 October 1999, indicated that he would also take oath in *Maithili.*

The Ministry of Law whose advice was sought in the matter advised that as per proviso to article 120, the Speaker or any person acting as such, may permit members to take oath in *Maithili* language if the same is their mother tongue and if they cannot adequately

express themselves in Hindi or in English. Accordingly, the Speaker *protem*, Shri Indrajit Gupta permitted Sarvashri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav and Kirti Azad, to take oath in *Maithili.*

Instance when extracts from the proceedings on obituary reference were sent to the Ministry of External Affairs: The former President of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere passed away on 14 October 1999. It was decided to make obituary reference in respect of Mr. Julius Nyerere as per the text provided by the Ministry of External Affairs, along with other obituary references in the House. Accordingly, obituary references were made in the House to the passing away of Mr. Nyerere by the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, on 25 October 1999 when the House met after half-an-hour of the Address by the President. The House was not adjourned after that. The relevant extract from the proceedings were sent to the Ministry of External Affairs for further necessary action.

Instance when reference was made by the Speaker on the demise of several persons after obituary references: On 25 October 1999, after obituary references, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi also made references on the death of several persons in two tragic incidents – the rail accident on 2 August 1999 at Gaisal Railway Station in West Bengal and the cyclonic havoc on 18 October 1999 in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

Instance when Ministers were introduced by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs: On 28 October 1999, as the Prime Minister was unwell, six Ministers were introduced to the House by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs after papers, etc. were laid on the Table of the House.

Instance when a member other than from the Panel of Chairmen presided over a sitting of the House: On 28 October 1999, during discussion on natural calamities in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed, who was in the Chair, suggested that as no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available in the House, Shri K. Yerrannaidu, member, might take the Chair for some time. The House agreed to that. Accordingly, Shri Yerrannaidu presided from 15.14 hrs. to 16.53 hrs when the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed relieved him. Shri Yerrannaidu again presided from 18.21 hrs. to 19.12 hrs., when the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi took the Chair.

On 29 November 1999, during discussion on loss of life and property due to the super cyclone in Orissa and the need to declare it

as a national calamity, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed, who was in the Chair, suggested that as no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available in the House, Shri Basudeb Acharia, member, might take the Chair for some time. The House agreed to that. Accordingly, Shri Basudeb Acharia presided from 16.15 hrs. to 17.54 hrs. when the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi took the Chair.

On 30 November 1999, during discussion on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed, who was in the Chair, suggested that as no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available in the House Shri Basudeb Acharia, member, might take the Chair for some time. The House agreed to that. Accordingly, Shri Basudeb Acharia presided from 17.17 hrs. to 18.00 hrs. when the House adjourned for the day.

On 1 December 1999, during the discussion on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed who was in the Chair, suggested that as no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available in the House, Shri Basudeb Acharia, member, might take the Chair for some time. The House agreed to that. Accordingly, Shri Basudeb Acharia presided from 16.54 hrs. to 17.04 hrs. when the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi took the Chair.

Instance when Statement giving reasons for not laying simultaneously of the English and Hindi version of a report, was laid on the Table: On 29 October 1999, English version of the Report of Inquiry headed by Justice S.C. Jain to enquire into the fire incident at the HPCL Visakh Refinery was allowed to be laid on the Table of the House as a special case together with the Memorandum of Action Taken thereon in Hindi and English versions. A Statement in Hindi and English giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the Report was also laid along with the above papers. Subsequently, the Hindi version of the Report was laid on the Table on 20 December 1999.

Resolution on the devastation caused by the high intensity cyclone in Orissa: On 29 November 1999, immediately before the House adjourned *sine die*, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi placed the following Resolution before the House:

> "This House expresses its deep sense of shock at the devastation being caused by the high intensity cyclone reportedly causing serious loss of life and property suffered by people in some districts of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh

and urges the Central and the State Governments to extend immediately all help and assistance to the people affected by this tragedy. This House offers condolences for the loss of life in the tragedy."

The Resolution was adopted. Thereafter, the text of the Resolution was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Reference to the 50th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Constitution of India: As decided in the meeting of the Speaker with the Leaders of Parties/Groups held on 29 November 1999, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, made a reference, on behalf of the whole House, to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India.

> Twenty-sixth November is a significant and an important day for our country. It is on this day, fifty years ago, that the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. The demand that India's political destiny should be determined by Indians themselves, had been put forward by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi as early as in 1922. His much cherished dream came true when we adopted our Constitution.
>
> The Constituent Assembly of India met for 166 days spread over a period of 2 years, 11 months and 18 days. By the time the Constitution was adopted on the 26th November 1949, the Members of the Assembly had discussed threadbare each and every one of its provisions in the light of the experiences elsewhere while, of course, keeping in view our requirements and realities.
>
> As our experience of the last fifty years demonstrates, our Constitution has been a dynamic document of national self-actualization. In every sense of the term, the Constitution reflects the soul of the nation and symbolizes the unity of our people and sovereign will.
>
> The adaptability of the Constitution to the ever-changing reality has effectively made it a vehicle of social change, the process being substantially facilitated by our Parliament. Till date, as many as 78 amendments have been adopted, many of them going a long way in realizing the people's hopes and aspirations. A Constitution is basically a people's covenant, their Charter of freedom and the blue print for their future.
>
> The spirit of the entire Constitution is reflected in the Preamble itself, which declared the resolve of the people to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic.

> The Preamble, as has been widely acclaimed, reflects the broad framework of ideas which are deeply ingrained in our ancient heritage and are part of the Indian ethos for which the Constitution stands and the fundamentals on which it has been founded.
>
> In the fifty years of existence, our Constitution has withstood the pulls and pressures of a democratic society. Its basic structure has remained the same as envisaged by our founding fathers. Our Constitution remains the most important document in our nation's life, which guides, and encourages us to rise to its hoary ideals. As inheritors of a great legacy, it is for us to translate the founding father's vision into reality. To that end, let us rededicate ourselves.

Consideration of a Bill cannot be deferred indefinitely pending constitution of the Committee on Petitions for consideration of a petition relating to that Bill: On 30 November 1999, when the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 was taken into consideration, Shri Basudeb Acharia, member, rising on a point of order, submitted that Shri Rupchand Pal, another member, had presented a petition on 28 October 1999 on the Bill and the same was circulated to members *in extenso* as per the requirement under Rule 307. He further referred to *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by Kaul and Shakdher' and stated that since the Committee on Petitions was not yet constituted, the consideration and passing of the Bill might be deferred for providing an opportunity to the Committee on Petitions to consider the petition and make some recommendations. Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Somnath Chatterjee also supported the contention of Shri Basudeb Acharia. Thereupon, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed, who was in the Chair, observed:

> "Shri Rupchand Pal has given a notice urging that the consideration of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 by the House be deferred until the Committee on Petitions have considered the petition presented by him on the subject of the Bill and submitted their Report thereon.
>
> The copies of the petition *in extenso* have already been circulated to the members as per the requirement of Rule 307. As the House is aware, the Committee on Petitions has not yet been constituted. The consideration of the Bill cannot be kept pending indefinitely. Hon. members may formulate their views on the basis of the contents of the petition and express them while participating in the discussion on the Bill.

I am, therefore, not in a position to accede to the request of Shri Rupchand Pal."

Thereafter, the motion for consideration of the Bill was taken up.

Instance when the report of a Commission was placed in the Parliament Library for reference by the members before being laid on the Table of the House: On 5 August 1999, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani sought permission of the Speaker to make public the Report of Justice D.P. Wadhwa Commission of Inquiry to enquire into the facts and circumstances relating to the killing of Mr. Graham Stewart Staines, an Australian national and his two sons.

As the Report was important and Parliament was not in session, (the Twelfth Lok Sabha had been dissolved and the new House was likely to be constituted in October 1999), the Government wanted to make the report public urgently. A copy of the report along with the Action Taken Report (ATR) (English version) as forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs was placed in the Parliament Library for reference by the members. The Ministry of Home Affairs was also informed. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat was also requested to issue a para in Bulletin-Part II for information of members.

The Report, along with the Memorandum of Action taken thereon (Hindi and English versions), was laid on the Table on 29 November 1999.

Instance when the Chair allowed members, whose names were not there in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions : On 3 December 1999, a Calling Attention on the situation arising out of serious disease of mite endangering coconut cultivation in the country was included, among others, in the name of Shri P.C. Thomas in the List of Business. During discussion on the Calling Attention, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed allowed Sarvashri M.V.V.S. Murthy, K. Francis George, Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Ramdas Athawale and A.C. Jose, members, whose names were not included, to ask clarificatory questions as a special case considering the public importance of the subject matter.

Instance when the House paid tributes to National Leaders: On 3 December 1999, when the House re-assembled after lunch break, on the suggestion of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, member, made on 2 December 1999, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, on behalf of the House, paid tributes to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and Smt. Indira Gandhi on being chosen 'Asian of the Century' by the *Asiaweek*

magazine and 'the greatest woman of the millennium' by BBC news online world poll, respectively.

Quoting from some document to be authenticated: On 8 December 1999, Shri Basudeb Acharia, member, while taking part in a Calling Attention, quoted from a note sent by the Ministry of Power to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Minister of Power, while raising a question of propriety, objected to the reference by a member to a correspondence between the Government and the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Chair, thereupon, observed that if the member was quoting from some document, he had to authenticate it and also to lay it on the Table of the House. Shri Acharia assured that he would authenticate the document and lay the same on the Table of the House.

As the member had already quoted from the relevant portion of the note which formed part of the proceedings and had not furnished any authenticated copy of the said note, the document was not treated as paper laid on the Table.

Instance when members were permitted to lay their written speeches: On 8 December 1999, during discussion under Rule 193 regarding problems being faced by farmers in various parts of the country, due to the long list of participants and paucity of time, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Accordingly two members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House on 8 December 1999.

Members should address the Chair and exercise restraint while participating in the discussion on the floor of the House: On 22 December 1999 the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, while deprecating the behaviour of Shri Devendra Singh, who had menacingly approached towards Treasury Benches during Question hour, observed:

> "Honourable members, the House was witness to an ugly incident today when a member of the Opposition, Shri Devendra Singh Yadav menacingly approached towards the Treasury Benches. I am constrained to observe that such behaviour on the part of the member concerned was in derogation of the established norms of decent parliamentary behaviour. Such incidents are not only a reflection on the parliamentary conduct of the member concerned but also erode the dignity of the whole House.
>
> I deprecate the behaviour of the member in the strongest terms and urge the Leaders of Parties and Groups in the

House to ensure dignified parliamentary behaviour from their members. I would also like to reiterate that members, including Ministers, should address the Chair and should also exercise restraint while participating in the discussion on the floor of the House. Perhaps, observance of this parliamentary norm may prevent recurrence of such incidents".

11

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1999)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and as such the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

*General Elections held**: The General Elections for Thirteenth Lok Sabha were held on 5, 11, 18 and 25 September 1999 and also on 3 and 28 October 1999.

Election results: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) obtained a clear majority in the Thirteenth General Elections. The BJP emerged as the single largest party, followed by the Indian National Congress.

On 19 October 1999, the Speaker accepted the resignation of Smt. Sonia Gandhi of her seat from Bellary parliamentary constituency and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav of his seat from Kannauj parliamentary constituency.

On 28 October 1999, elections were held in six parliamentary constituencies which were not held earlier along with the rest of the constituencies. The results of these constituencies are as under: Bhagalpur: Shri Subodh Roy (CPI-M); Purnea: Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav (Independent); Rajmahal (ST): Shri Thomas Hansda (Congress-I);

* For details related to the General Elections, formation of Government and Constitution of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, *see* Short Note, "The Thirteenth Lok Sabha: Another Commitment to Democratic Values", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vols. XLV, No. 3, September 1999, pp. 285-90

Khagaria: Smt. Renu Devi (JD-U); Dhubri: Shri Abdul Hamid (Congress-I); and Outer Manipur (ST): Shri Holkhomang Haokip (Nationalist Congress Party).

On 16 November 1999, the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan nominated Shri D.B. Atkinson and Smt. Beatrix D'Souza to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha to represent the Anglo-Indian Community. (For the latest party position in the Lok Sabha, see Annexure VII.)

Constitution of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha: On 10 October 1999, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted with the Election Commission issuing a notification under Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

New Prime Minister: On 11 October 1999, the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan invited the Leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee of the BJP, to form the Government. A 70-member Council of Ministers headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in on 13 October 1999.

The Council of Ministers and their portfolios are as under: Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: (*Prime Minister*): Prime Minister and *also in charge of the Ministries/Departments not specifically allocated to the charge of any Minister.*

Cabinet Ministers: Shri L.K. Advani: *Home*; Shri Ananth Kumar: Culture, *Youth Affairs and Sports;* Shri T.R. Baalu: *Environment and Forests;* Ms. Mamata Banerjee: *Railways*; Shri George Fernandes: *Defence*; Shri Jagmohan: Urban Development; Shri Satya Narayan Jatiya: *Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation;* Shri Ram Jethmalani: *Law, Justice and Company Affairs*; Shri Manohar Joshi: Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi: *Human Resource Development and Science and Technology;* Shri R. Kumaramangalam: Power; Shri Pramod Mahajan: Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources; Shri Murasoli Maran: Commerce and Industry; Shri Ram Naik: *Petroleum and Natural Gas*; Shri Nitish Kumar: *Surface Transport*; Shri Jual Oram: *Tribal Affairs*; Shri Ram Vilas Paswan: Communications; Shri Naveen Patnaik: *Mines and Minerals*; Shri Sunder Lal Patwa: *Rural Development*; Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu: *Chemicals and Fertilizers;* Shri Kashiram Rana: *Textiles;* Shri Shanta Kumar: *Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution;* Shri Jaswant Singh: *External Affairs;* Shri Yashwant Sinha: *Finance;* and Shri Sharad Yadav: *Civil Aviation.*

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Ms. Maneka Gandhi: *Social Justice and Empowerment;* Shri Arun Jaitley: *Information and Broad-casting;* Shri M. Kannappan: *Non-conventional Energy Sources;*

Shri Dilip Ray: *Steel, in addition will assist Minister of Parliamentary Affairs;* Smt. Vasundhara Raje: *Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries; in addition will be Minister of State assisting the Prime Minister in the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space;* Shri N.T. Shanmugam: *Health and Family Welfare*; and Ms. Uma Bharti: *Tourism.*

Ministers of State: Shri Ramesh Bais: *Chemicals and Fertilizers;* Ms. Bijoya Chakravarty: *Water Resources;* Shri Shriram Chauhan: *Parliamentary Affairs;* Shri Bandaru Dattatraya: *Urban Development;* Shri Santosh Gangwar: *Science and Technology,* in addition will assist Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil: *Human Resource Development;* Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta: *Civil Aviation;* Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain: *Food Processing*; Dr. Vallabh Bhai Ramjibhai Kathiria: *Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises*; Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste: Parliamentary Affairs; Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar: *Finance*; Shri Bangaru Laxman: *Planning and Programme Implementation*; Ms. Sumitra Mahajan: *Human Resource Development;* Shri Subhash Maharia: *Rural Development;* Shri Babu Lal Marandi: *Environment and Forests;* Ms. Jayawanti Mehta: *Power;* Shri Muni Lall: *Labour and Employment;* Shri Omar Abdullah: *Commerce and Industry;* Shri Ajit Kumar Panja: *External Affairs;* Shri Harin Pathak: *Defence*; Dr. Debendra Pradhan: *Surface Transport;* Shri E. Ponnuswamy: *Petroleum;* Shri A. Raja: *Rural Deve-lopment;* Shri O. Rajagopal: *Law, Justice and Company Affairs;* Dr. Raman: *Commerce and Industry;* Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran: *Textiles;* Shri Chennamaneni Vidya Sagar Rao: *Home;* Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao: *Agriculture;* Shri Bachi Singh Rawat: *Defence;* Shri Tapan Sikdar: Communications; Shri Digvijay Singh: Railways; Shri Th. Chaoba Singh: *Culture Youth Affairs & Sports;* Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad: *Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution;* Shri I.D. Swami: *Home;* Dr. (Smt.) Rita Verma: *Mines and Minerals;* Shri EV alias Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil: *Finance;* and Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav: *Agriculture.*

On 22 November 1999, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expanded the Union Cabinet. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Rajnath Singh: *Surface Transport;* Shri C.P. Thakur: *Water Resources;* and Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa: *Works and Estates.*

Minister of State: Shri Arun Shourie: *Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Department of Administrative Reforms.*

On 26 November 1999, a minor reshuffle of portfolios took place in the Union Cabinet. Shri Jagmohan was assigned the Ministry of Urban

Development and Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

On 10 December 1999, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley was given the independent charge of the newly-created Department of Disinvestment.

Leader of the Opposition: The Leader of Indian National Congress in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi was recognised as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha with effect from 13 October 1999.

Speaker pro tem: On 15 October 1999, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan appointed Shri Indrajit Gupta as Speaker pro tem in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by clause (1) of article 95 of the Constitution of India. He performed the duties of the Speaker and presided over the sittings of the Lok Sabha on 20 and 21 October 1999 and till the new Speaker was elected on 22 October 1999.

First Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha: The First Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 20 October 1999 was adjourned sine die on 29 October 1999 and it was prorogued by the President on 1 November 1999.

Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker:* On 22 October 1999, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi of the TDP was unanimously re-elected as the Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. On 27 October 1999, Shri P.M. Sayeed of the Congress (I) was unanimously chosen as the Deputy Speaker.

Panel of Chairmen: Under rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Speaker pro tem Shri Indrajit Gupta nominated Shri P.M. Sayeed, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Madhavrao Scindia on the Panel of Chairmen on 20 October 1999.

Death of member: On 3 October 1999, Shri R.K. Kumar, a member of the Rajya Sabha belonging to the AIADMK passed away.

Nominations to the Rajya Sabha: On 22 November 1999, the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan nominated Sarvashri F. Nariman, Cho Ramaswamy, Nanaji Deshmukh and Kumari Lata Mangeshkar to the Rajya Sabha.

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* For details of the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, *see* Short Note "Election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLV, No. 3, September 1999, pp. 291 & 299

Cabinet Rank status: On 25 November 1999, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government and was given the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

On 30 November 1999, the Deputy-Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla was given the status of a Cabinet Minister on being elected as the Chairperson of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Election to the Sate Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly were held on 5 September 1999. The party position following the elections is as under : Total seats: 295; TDP: 178; BJP: 12; Congress: 91; MIM-4; CPI (M): 2; Independents: 5; Nominated-1; and Vacant seats: 2.

On 11 October 1999, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The Ministers are : Sarvashri P. Ashok Gajapati Raju, T. Devender Goud, A. Madhav Reddy, B.Y. Mohan Reddy, Y. Ramakrishnudu, Vadde Shobhanadreeswara Rao, K. Vijayarama Rao and S. Saraswati.

Election of Speaker: On 10 November 1999, Smt. Kavari Pratibha Bharati was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly were held on 3 October 1999. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 60; Congress(I): 50; NCP:4; and Independents : 6.

On 11 October 1999, Shri Mukut Mithi was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Mukut Mithi *(Chief Minister):* Finance, Planning, Programme Implementation, Economics and Statistics and Parliamentary Affairs; Shri Thupten Tempa: *Public Works;* Shri Kameng Dolo: *Home;* Shri Dera Natung: *Education;* Shri Japu Deru: *Horticulture;* Shri Tsering Gyurme: Industries, *Textiles and Handicrafts;* Shri Nabamtuki: *Environment and Forests;* Shri Hari Natung: *Irrigation and Flood Control;* Shri T.C. Teli: *Revenue, Excise and Urban Development;* Shri Takam Sanjoy: *Land Management and Information, Public Relations and Printing;* Shri Kahfa Bengia: *Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development;* Shri Talo Mugli: *Rural Development and Panchayati Raj;* Shri Tadak Dobum: *Social Welfare, Women and Child Development;* Shri Lijum Ronya: *Power and Non-*

conventional Energy Resources; Shri Kento Ete: *Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Administration and Training;* Shri Kabanmg Dorang: Cooperation; Shri Tako Dabi: *Agriculture;* Shri Lombo Tayeng: *Cultural Affairs and Tourism;* Shri Chowna Mein: *Public Health and Water Supply;* and Shri C.B. Namchoom: *Transport and Civil Aviation.*

ASSAM

Minister dropped: On 8 November 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta dropped the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Shri Digen Chandra Bora from the State Cabinet.

Arunachal Governor given additional charge Assam: On 4 December 1999, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Arvind Dave was given the additional charge as the Governor of Assam.

BIHAR

UP Governor given additional charge of Bihar: On 3 October 1999, the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Suraj Bhan was given additional charge as the Governor of Bihar.

Minister dismissed: On 16 November 1999, the Governor, Shri Suraj Bhan dismissed the Weights and Measures Minister, Shri Rakesh Kumar from the Office on the ground that he had not attained the constitutionally prescribed minimum age to hold a ministerial position.

RJD MLA expelled: On 19 November 1999, the RJD expelled Shri Maheshwar Prasad Yadav, MLA, from the Party for indulging in anti-party activities. On 7 December 1999, Shri Maheshwar Prasad Yadav joined the JD(U).

GOA

Political developments : On 5 November 1999, one of the two NCP MLAs, Shri Francis D'Souza joined the Congress (I).

On 19 November 1999, eleven out of the twenty-six Congress(I) MLAs, including four Ministers and the Deputy Speaker quit the party and staked claim to form a coalition Government with the support of the MGP and NCP MLAs.

On 20 November 1999, the Governor, Lt. Gen.(Retd.) J.F.R. Jacob asked the Chief Minister, Shri Luizinho Faleiro to prove his majority on the floor of the House on 24 November 1999. Meanwhile, the BJP decided to support the eleven-member break away group led by Shri Francisco Sardinha.

On 21 November 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Luizinho Faleiro resigned before the Vote of Confidence. Thereafter, Shri Francisco Sardinha was sworn in as the Chief Minister and was asked to prove his majority on the floor of the House within 21 days.

The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Francisco Sardinha: *(Chief Minister): Home, Finance, Housing, General Administration and Personnel;* Shri Dayanand G. Narvekar: (Deputy Chief Minister): *Irrigation, Town and Country Planning and Forests;* Shri Subhash Shirodkar: *Public Works Department and Mining;* Shri Somnath Zuwarkar: *Transport and Co-operation;* Shri Mauvin Godinho: *Revenue;* Shri Alexio Sequeira: *Industries and Information Technology;* Shri Digambar Kamat: *Power and Protocol;* Shri Arecio D'Souza: *Agriculture and Provedoria;* Shri Francisco D'Souza: *Law and Judiciary, Labour and Employment;* Shri Venktesh Dessai: *Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Agency;* Shri Francisco Silveira: *Food and Civil Supplies and Sports and Youth Affairs;* Shri Prakash Phadte: *Education and Science and Technology;* Dr. Sudesh Amonkar: *Health and Social Welfare;* and Smt. Victoria Fernandes: *Tourism and Animal Husbandry.*

Vote of Confidence: On 30 November 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Francisco Sardinha won a Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 30 December 1999, Shri Ulhas Azgaonkar of the BJP was elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

HARYANA

Support to INLD: On 31 October 1999, four members of the Legislative Assembly belonging to the Haryana Vikas Party extended unconditional support to Shri Om Prakash Chautala's Indian National Lok Dal.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 6 November 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Om Prakash Chautala expanded the State Cabinet. The new Ministers are: Sarvashri Jagdish Yadav, Ram Swaroop Rana, Subhash Yadav, Jaswant Singh Narnaud, Vinod Maurya, Azad Mohammed, Jagdish Nayar, Ram Bhaj and Smt. Kanta Devi.

The Chief Minister also dropped the Industry Minister, Shri Brij Mohan Singhla and the Transport Minister, Shri Narbir Singh from the State Cabinet on 6 November 1999.

Dissolution of Assembly: On 14 December 1999, Governor dis-

solved the State Legislative Assembly on the recommendation of the Chief Minister, Shri Om Prakash Chautala.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

New Governor: On 2 December 1999, Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri was sworn in as the new Governor.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Resignation of Minister from the Assembly: On 21 October 1999, the Revenue Minister, Shri Ali Mohammed Naik resigned from the Tral Assembly constituency after he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Anantnag constituency.

Ministers dropped: On 13 December 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Farooq Abdullah dropped seven Ministers from the State Cabinet.

KARNATAKA

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 5 September 1999. The Party position following the elections is as under: Total Seats: 224; Congress(I): 132; BJP: 44; JD(U): 19; JD(S): 10; AIADMK:1; Independents-19.

On 11 October 1999, Shri S.M. Krishna of the Congress(I) was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri S.M. Krishna: *(Chief Minister) : Finance, Banglore Development Authority, Power, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Science and Technology.*

Cabinet Ministers : Shri Mallikarjuna Kharge: *Home*; Shri Dharam Singh: Public Works Department; Shri Kagodu Thimmappa: *Social Welfare;* Shri H.K. Patil: *Major and Medium Irrigation;* Shri K.H. Ranganath: *Forests and Environment;* Shri D.B. Chandre Gowda: *Law and Parliamentary Affairs;* Shri H. Viswanath: *Primary and Secondary Education;* Shri Kashappanavar: *Small Industries;* Shri A. Krishanppa: *Animal Husbandry;* Shri Kamarulla Islam: *Housing;* Shri A.M. Hindasageri: *Labour;* Shri B.B. Chimmanakatti: *Urban Development;* Shri T.B. Jayachandra: *Agriculture;* Shri R.V. Deshapande: *Major Industries;* Shri V. Muniyappa; *Mines Geology;* Shri M. Mahadevu: *Sericulture;* Shri B. Ramanath Rai: *Ports and Harbour;* Shri R. Roshan Baig: *Tourism;* Shri H.C. Srikantaiah: *Revenue;* Shri D.K. Shivakumar: *Co-operation;* Shri S.R. Sagir Ahamad: *Transport;* Shri M.Y. Ghorpade: *Rural Development;* Dr. A.B. Malakareddy: *Health and Family Welfare;* and Smt. Motamma: *Women and Child Welfare.*

Ministers of State (Independent Charge) : Shri Kumar Bangarappa: *Minor Irrigation;* Shri D.B. Inamdar: *Food and Civil Supplies;* Shri R.B. Thimmapura: *Agriculture Marketing;* Shri Baburao Chinchanasur: *Endowment;* Shri Mallikarjun S.S.: *Youth and Sports;* Shri M. Shivanna: *Kannada and Culture;* Prof. B.K. Chandrashekar: *Information;* Dr. G. Parameshwar: *Higher Education;* and Smt. Suma Vasanth: *Planning.*

Ministers of State: Shri Allam Veerabhadrappa: *Horticulture;* Shri T. Jhon: *Infrastructure ;* Shri Divakar Babu: *Rural Development;* Shri Baburao Chouhan: *Social Welfare;* Shri M. Mallikarjuna: *Urban Development;* Shri M. M. Nanaiah: *Excise;* Shri Veera Kumar Patil: *Power;* Smt. Nafisa Fazal: *Medical Education;* and Smt. Rani Satish: *Prisons & Home Guards.*

Election of Speaker: On 26 October 1999, Shri M.V. Venkatappa of the Congress(I) was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

MADHYA PRADESH

Split in Party: On 27 October 1999, the Bahujan Samaj Party split with four of the eleven MLAs forming the Pragatisheel Bahujan Samaj Party (PBSP). They are: Sarvashri Edalsingh Kansana, Bundilal Jatar, Lakhan Singh Yadav and Balbir Kushwaha.

Death of Minister: On 16 December 1999, the Transport Minister, Shri Likhiram Kawre was assassinated by Naxalites.

MAHARASHTRA

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 5 September 1999. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 288; Shiv Sena: 66; BJP: 58; Congress: 77; NCP: 57; and Others: 30 (including 12 Independents).

On 18 October 1999, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh of the Congress(I) was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Shri Chhaggan Bhujbal of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister the same day. The new Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Surup Singh Naik, Patangrao Kadam, Hussain Dalwai, Ashok Chavan, Jayant Awale, Shivajirao Moghe, Padam Sinh Patil, Vijay Sinh Mohite –Patil, Madhukar Pichad, Ajit Pawar, Vikramsinh Patankan, Ganpatrao Deshmuk, Rohidas Patil, Vasant Chavan, Ranjit

Deshmukh, Vilasrao Patil, Digvijay Khanvilkar, R.R. Patil, Ramkrishna More, Dilip Valse Patil, Satish Chaturvedi, Anandrao Deokate, Jayant Patil, Makhram Pawar and Shri Datta Meghe.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri A.T. Pawar, Manikrao Thakre, Laxman Dhoble, Prakash Kallappa Awade, Jaydutta Kshirsagar, Eknath Gaikwad, Anil Deshmukh, Balasaheb alias Vijay Thorat, Babasaheb Kupekar, Basawaraj Patil, Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar, Anees Ahmed, Subhas Thakre, Bandubhau Savarbandhe, Mohammed Arif Khan, Madhukar Chavan, Gangadhar Gade, Ajit Ghorpade, Harshvardhan Patil, Rajesh Tope, Kripashankar Sinh, Rajendra Darda, Chandra Kant Shivawarkar, Vimal Mundada, Hemant Deshmukh, Sunil Tatkare, M.P. Hirani, Rajendra Shingne, Nawab Malik, M. Patil, Mohan Patil, Dada Jadhavrao, Smt. Sulekha Khumbare and Smt. Vasudha Deshmukh.

On 31 October 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh dropped six Ministers from the State Cabinet. They are : Sarvashri Satish Chaturvedi, Bandubhau Savarbandhe, Harshavardhan Patil, Rajesh Tope, Rajendra Shingne and Madhukar Chavan.

Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker: On 22 October 1999, Shri Arun Gujarati, a Congress-NCP Combine candidate was elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly. Shri Pramod Shende of the Congress (I) was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly on 23 December 1999,.

Vote of Confidence: On 23 October 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh won a Vote of Confidence

MEGHALAYA

Political developments: On 12 October 1999, the ruling United Democratic Party severed its alliance with the Congress (I) and decided to ally with the Nationalist Congress Party.

On 13 October 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri B.B. Lyngdoh constituted a 29-member Ministry. After severing alliance with the Congress, the UDP which had twenty MLAs aligned with NCP's twelve members, BJP's three and People's Democratic Front's one member, taking the total strength to thirty-six.

ORISSA

New Governor: On 15 November 1999, Shri M.M. Rajendran was appointed as the new Governor of Orissa.

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 5 December 1999, the Chief Minister,

Shri Giridhar Gamang submitted the resignation to the Governor, Shri M.M Rajendran.

On 6 December 1999, Shri Hemananda Biswal was sworn in as the new Chief Minister.

PONDICHERRY

Political developments: On 30 December 1999, the DMK-led Janakiraman Ministry faced a crisis with the TMC pulling out the Local Administration Minister, Shri Theni C. Jayakumar from the State Cabinet.

PUNJAB

New Governor: On 27 November 1999, Lt. Gen.(Retd.) J.F.R. Jacob was sworn in as the new Governor of Punjab.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 31 December 1999, the Chief Minister, Shri Prakash Singh Badal expanded the Cabinet by inducting 15 new Ministers. The Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Adesh Pratap Singh, Shri Baldev Raj Chawla, Natho Singh Dalam, S.K. Sandhu and J.S. Garcha.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri Sujan Singh, Tara Singh, Ranjit Singh Ballian, Govind Singh Longowal, Ajaib Singh Mukhmail, Tikshan Sud, Balbir Singh Chaudhary, Gulzar Singh Ramke, Sohan Singh Thandal and Smt. Mohinder Kaur.

SIKKIM

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Sikkim Legislative Assembly were held on 3 October 1999. The following is the Party position: Total seats: 32; Sikkim Democratic Front: 24; Sikkim Sangaram Parishad:7; and Independent: 1.

On 11 October 1999, Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling of the Sikkim Democratic Front was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling (Chief Minister): *Home, Finance and Rural Development;* Shri Dorjee Dazom Bhutia: *Health, Family Welfare, Information and Public Relations, Science and Technology and Printing;* Shri Garjaman Gurung: *Agriculture;* Shri Hishey Lachungpa: *Power and Labour*; Shri Tshering Bhutia*: Urban Development and Public Health Engineering;* Shri Karna Bahadur Chamling: *Food and Civil Supplies;* Shri Ram Bahadur Subba: *Building and Public Works;* Shri Prem Singh

Tamang: *Animal Husbandry and Industries:* Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha: *Forests, Mines and Geology;* Shri K.T.N. Gyaltsen Subba: *Land and Revenue and Tourism;* and Shri Ram Bahadur Subba: *Education and Law.*

Election of Speaker: On 15 October 1999, Smt. Kalawati Subba was elected unanimously as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly. She is the first woman member to hold the office of the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

TAMIL NADU

Death of MLA: Shri A. Mani, MLA, belonging to the DMK, passed away on 12 November 1999.

TRIPURA

Expansion of Cabinet: On 14 November 1999, the Chief Minister expanded the Cabinet by inducting Shri Balaram Reang as a Minister.

UTTAR PRADESH

Political developments: On 9 November 1999, the BJP asked the Chief Minister, Shri Kalyan Singh to resign. On 12 November 1999, Shri Ram Prakash Gupta was sworn in as the new Chief Minister.

On 17 November 1999, the Chief Minister inducted 41 Ministers into the Cabinet.

On 9 December 1999, the former Chief Minister, Shri Kalyan Singh was expelled from the party for six years for indulging in anti-party activities.

Split in Samata Party: On 24 December 1999, the Samata Party split with former Minister, Shri Raghubar Dayal Verma announcing the formation of a new party Samata Party (R).

WEST BENGAL

New Governor: On 4 December 1999, Shri Viren Shah was sworn in as the new Governor.

New Power Minister: On 7 October 1999, the Minister for Public Undertakings and Industrial Reconstruction, Shri Mrinal Banerjee took over the charge of the Power Department following the resignation tendered by the Power Minister, Shri Shankar Sen.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

ALGERIA

New Prime Minister: On 24 December 1999, the President, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika appointed Mr. Ahmed Benbitour as the new Prime Minister.

ARGENTINA

New President: On 25 October 1999, Mr. Fernando de la Rua was elected as the new President.

ARMENIA

Prime Minster killed: On 27 October 1999, the Prime Minister, Mr. Vozgen Sarkisian was shot dead in the Parliament building.

CROATIA

Death of President: On 11 December 1999, the President, Mr. Franjo Tudjman passed away.

INDONESIA

Election of President and Vice-President: On 20 October 1999, Mr. Abdurrahman Wahid was elected as the new President.

On 21 October 1999, Ms. Megawati Sukarnoputri was elected as the Vice-President.

ITALY

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 9 December 1999, the Prime Minister, Mr. Massino D'alema resigned from Office.

Vote of Confidence: On 23 December 1999, the Prime Minister, Mr. Massino D'alema's new Centre-left Government won a Vote of Confidence in the Senate.

IVORY COAST

Military ruler takes charge: On 29 December 1999, General Robert Guei took the charge of the Government ousting the President Henri Kanan Bedie.

JAPAN

New Cabinet: On 5 October 1999, the Prime Minister, Mr. Keizo Obuchi replaced 16 of the 18 Ministers and named a three-party coalition Government. The Finance Minister, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa and the Planning

Minister, Mr. Taichi Sakaikya were retained. Mr. Yohei Kono was appointed as the new Foreign Minister replacing Mr. Masahiko Komura.

KAZAKHSTAN

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 1 October 1999, the Prime Minister, Mr. Nurlan Balgimbayev resigned from Office. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Tokoyev was named as his successor.

MALAYSIA

Election results: The Prime Minister, Mr. Mahatir Mohammad's 14-party Barisan National Coalition won 148 seats in the elections to the 193-member Parliament held on 29 November 1999.

NAMIBIA

President re-elected: On 7 December 1999, Mr. Sam Nujoma was re-elected for a third term as the President.

NEPAL

By-election results: On 12 December 1999, the Prime Minister, Shri Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's Nepal Congress Party won all the three seats to which by-elections were held.

NEW ZEALAND

Political developments: On 27 November 1999, the Prime Minister, Ms. Jenny Shipley conceded defeat of her Centre-Right minority Government to Labour Party's leader, Ms. Helen Clark after the General Elections.

On 28 November 1999, Ms. Helen Clark was elected as the new Prime Minister.

On 10 December 1999, the Prime Minister, Ms. Helen Clark's Centre-Left Government was sworn in. The coalition won 59 of the 120 seats for which parliamentary elections were held on 27 November 1999.

PAKISTAN

Political developments: On 12 October 1999, the Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif was dismissed by the Army Chief, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

On 13 October 1999, the Army Chief also dismissed the provincial Governments in all the four Provinces.

On 15 October 1999, Gen. Pervez Musharraf assumed power as the Chief Executive of the country through an order. Emergency was declared in the country and the Federal and Provincial Governments ceased to exist while the Senate, National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies was suspended.

On 21 October 1999, Gen. Musharraf appointed Governors for all the four Provinces. They were: Lt. Gen (Retd.) Mohammad Safdar: *Punjab;* Air Marshal (Retd.) Azim Duudpota: *Sindh;* Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Mohammad Shafiq: *North-West Frontier (NWF) Province;* and Justice (Retd.) Amir-ul-Mulk Mengal: *Balochistan.*

RUSSIA

Resignation of President: On 31 December 1999, the President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin resigned from Office and named the Prime Minister, Mr. Vladimir Putin as the acting President.

SRI LANKA

MP killed: On 2 November 1999, Mr. Ramesh Nadarajah, MP was shot dead.

President re-elected: On 22 Decemberr 1999, Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga was re-elected as the President.

TANZANIA

Julius Nyerere dead: Former President, Mr. Julius Nyerere passed away on 14 October 1999.

UK

New Ministers: On 12 October 1999, Mr. Peter Mandelson was appointed as the new Secretary for Northern Ireland and Mr. Keith Vaz was made Minister in Foreign Office in charge of Europe.

UKRAINE

President re-elected: On 15 November 1999, Mr. Leonid Kuchmas was re-elected as the new President.

USA

Death of Senator: On 26 October 1999, the Republican Senator, Mr. John Chafee passed away.

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DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The State of Jammu and Kashmir had been the target of terrorist activities for the last several years. As a result, large number of people migrated elsewhere from the Kashmir valley. Accordingly, on the suggestion of the Election Commission of India, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was amended by promulgation of Ordinances at the time of elections to the Lok Sabha in 1996 and 1998 so as to enable the migrants from the Kashmir Valley to exercise their franchise through postal ballot, Similarly, at the time of the General Elections for the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, the Representation of the People (amendment) Ordinance, 1999 was promulgated to extend the above facility to migrants from the Kashmir valley. However, the provisions of the Amendments Ordinances were not restricted only to the migrant Kashmiri people but were of general nature which could be applied to any class of persons as notified by the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government. The Election Commission of India had been of the view that the provisions included in the Ordinance should be placed permanently on the Statue book so that a similar situation can be met in the future also. Accordingly, to obviate the need for making such provisions through promulgation of an Ordinance in future as also to meet similar unforeseen situations elsewhere, the Government considered it necessary to make the provisions permanently in the Statute. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which sought to give effect to the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 28 October and 29 October 1999, respectively. The Bill received the President's assent on 16 November 1999.

Under the existing provisions of the Vice-President's Pension's Act, 1997, a person who ceases to hold the Office of the Vice-President of India is eligible for a pension of Rs. 6,250 per month for the rest of his life. However, the salary of the Vice-President who is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha had been enhanced from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 40,000 per month by the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 1998. The enhancement of salary had been made with retrospective effect, *i.e.* from 1 January, 1996. In view of the increased salary, it was considered appropriate to increase also the amount of pension payable to a retired Vice-President. Therefore, it was proposed to enhance the amount of pension from Rs. 6,250 per month to Rs. 20,000 per month retrospectively from 28 May 1997, the date on which the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997 came into force.

During the discussion on the Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1997 in the Rajya Sabha, some members felt that the facilities proposed to be provided to the retired Vice-Presidents in terms of accommodation, office expenses and travel were not commensurate with the status and dignity of the Office of the Vice-President. Hence, the Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999 proposed to make necessary provisions in this regard. The Bill also sought

to make two new provisions which *inter alia* provided that when a person is re-elected to the Office of the Vice-President, such person or the spouse of such person shall not be entitled to any benefit under the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997 during the period he holds such office; and if the Vice-President gets elected to the Office of the President, he or his spouse shall not be entitled by any facilities under the provisions of the said Act. The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999 was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 20 December and 23 December 1999, respectively and received the President's assent on 30 December 1999.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1999

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

BE it enacted by the Parliament in Fiftieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1. *Short title and commencement* : (*1*) This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1999.

(*2*) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 21st day of July, 1999.

2. *Amendment of section 60 of Act 43 of 1951* : In the Representation of the people Act, 1951 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 60, after clause (*b*), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:–

"(*c*) any person belonging to a class of persons notified by the Election Commission in consultation with the Government to give his vote by postal ballot, and not in any other manner, at an election in a constituency where a poll is taken subject to the fulfilment of such requirements as may be specified in those rules."

3. *Repeal and saving* : (*1*) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 is hereby repealed.

(*2*) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed tc have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1999

An Act to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fiftieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. *Short title* : This Act may be called the Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Act, 1999.

2. *Amendment of section 2* : In section 2 of the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997, —

(*a*) in sub-section *(1)*, for the words "six thousand two hundred and fifty rupees", the words "twenty thousand rupees" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 28th day of May, 1997;

(*b*) in sub-section *(2)*, —

(*i*) for clause (*a*), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*a*) to the use without payment of rent of such furnished residence (including its maintenance), as the Central Government may determine from time to time;";

(*ii*) in clause (*c*), for the words "rupees six thousand", the words "rupees twelve thousand" shall be substituted;

(*iii*) for clause (*f*), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*f*) to travel anywhere in India, accompanied by spouse or a companion or a relative by the highest class by air, rail or steamer;";

(*c*) after sub-section (*2*), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:–

"(*3*) Where any such person is re-elected to the office of Vice-President, he or his spouse shall not be eligible to any benefit under this section for the period during which such person again holds such office.

(*4*) Where any person being a Vice-President gets elected to the office of the President of India, he or his spouse shall not be eligible to any benefit under this section".

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SESSIONAL REVIEW

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

FIRST SESSION

A. DISCUSSIONS/ STATEMENTS

The first Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 20 October 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 29 October 1999. The House was prorogued by the President on 1 November 1999. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below. (There was no Question Hour during this period)

*Election of the Speaker**: Shri G.M.C. Balayogi was re-elected as the Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on 22 October 1999

*Election of the Deputy Speaker***: Shri P.M. Sayeed was re-elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on 27 October 1999.

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to Members of Parliament: On 25 October 1999, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed*** the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Shri V.K. Malhotra on 26 October 1999. The discussion on the motion

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* For details of the election of the Speaker, *see* Short Note "The Election of the Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLV, No. 3, September 1999, pp. 291-98

** For details of the election of the Deputy Speaker, *see* Short Note "The Election of the Deputy Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLV, No. 3, September 1999, pp.299-307

*** For the text of the Address, see Feature, 'Address by the President to Parliament', *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLV, No. 4, December 1999, pp.408-20

took place on 26, 28 and 29 October 1999. Moving the motion, Shri V.K. Malhotra (Bharatiya Janata Party) said that the President had expressed his views against corruption. The Government was committed to eradicate corruption, and would bring forward 'the Lokpal Bill' which would have under its purview the Prime Minister and the Ministers. The issues of poverty alleviation, foreign policy and pollution required a consensual approach, for which every party should extend its cooperation.

Seconding the motion, Shri Vaiko (Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) said that the National Democratic Alliance's agenda was an agenda for a proud and prosperous India.

On 29 October 1999, taking part in the discussion*, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) said that the Government should resolve as to how friendly relations could be improved with our neighbours and how the nation could prosper.

Participating in the discussion, the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri Manohar Gajanan Joshi said that no problem could be solved without controlling India's population.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Indrajit Gupta (Communist Party of India) said that in a few years from now, India would be facing an insoluble crisis because of the growth of population. The Government should tell more about how they proposed to deal with the problem in the National Health Programme.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee (Communist Party of India (M)) said that the Government would not be able to deal with corruption without tackling black money in the country. Nothing had been said in the Address by the President about the elimination of poverty.

The Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Government's economic policy had been dealt with in detail in the Address. It had been mentioned that the existing developmental policies would be modified and the basic problems of the people solved within the shortest span

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shivraj V. Patil, Raghunath Jha, P. Rajendran, Manishankar Aiyar, Vinod Khanna, P.A. Sangma, K. Rashid Alvi, Trilochan Kanungo, S.S. Palanimanickam, Joachim Baxla, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Amar Roy Pradhan, Ramdas Athawale, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, Prabhunath Singh, Jagmeet Singh Brar, Dr. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Shrimati Kanti Singh and Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee

of time. The Government would provide the required facilities to the people through Panchayati Raj institutions. As regards fiscal deficit, unless there would be structural adjustment it would not be possible to establish fiscal rectitude.

Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) asked for a Bench of the Supreme Court in the Sourthern India to enforce the fundamental rights and avoid delay in disposal of cases. He also suggested that the Government could bring a Constitution Amendment Bill to amend article 32 clause (iii) to empower the local courts to exercise the jurisdiction.

Shri Ali Mohammad Naik (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) said that 30 lakh Kashmiri Pandits had to migrate from the State due to militancy in Kashmir but no final decision had been taken for their rehabilitation.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Simranjit Singh Mann (Shiromani Akali Dal (S.S. Mann) said that terrorism could not be finished when there was action and a reaction and asked the Government to pay attention to problems faced by the Sikh Community.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress (M)) said that as far as the Centre-State relationship was concerned, the States should be given more money especially seeing their geographical location and other special requirements.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mohale (Janata Dal (Secular)) said that it was the duty of the Government to defend the country and destroy the subversive forces.

Opposing the motion, Shri K. Francis George (Kerala Congress) said that as regards the Ministerial Conference of the WTO was concerned, the clauses which would be affecting India's interest should be reviewed and deleted.

Participating in the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi said that investments in anti-poverty and rural development programmes needed to be stepped up significantly. All Central funds for poverty alleviation and rural developments should be transferred directly to elected Panchayati Raj Institutions without any further delay.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that the Government would consider calling a Special Session of Parliament and deliberate on the issues of population and the policy in that regard. As regards Information Technology, the Govern-

ment would be creating a separate Ministry which would implement a comprehensive action plan to make India an IT superpower in the early part of the 21st century.

All amendments moved were negatived and the motion was adopted.

Increase in the Price of Diesel: Initiating the discussion under Rule 193 on 26 October 1999, Shri Shankarsinh Laxmansinh Vaghela (Indian National Congress) said that the increased diesel price would adversely affect the common man. Instead of increasing the price of diesel, the Government should strive for increasing domestic production, rejuvenate ONGC and associate private entrepreneurs in the oil sector.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Somnath Chatterjee (Communist Party of India (M)) said that increase in the price of diesel had not only created a serious problem but also created almost a deadlock so far as the transport of goods in the country was concerned.

Kumari Mayawati (Bahujan Samaj Party) said that the steep hike in diesel price should be immediately withdrawn as it had not only affected the farmers but also the common man hard.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) appealed to the Government to withdraw the hike in the diesel price in the interest of the poor people, farmers and the country as a whole.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the prices of essential commodities would sky rocket every where, particularly in the villages, and the Government would not be able to contain the price rise.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that while taking such decision, the interests of the common people and the backward classes should be uppermost in the mind.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik said that the most important point was that there should be parity and equality in the import price. After the Kargil war, the market became volatile in view of the pace at which prices of oil

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Rajesh Pilot, M.V.V.S. Murthy, Akhilesh Singh, Naval Kishore Rai, Prabhunath Singh, V.M. Sudheeran, Suresh Ram Rao Jadhav, Basudeb Acharia, Madan Prasad Jaiswal, Bhan Singh Bhaura, Ranen Barman, M.O.H. Farooq, Laxman Singh, Ram Sagar, Raghunath Jha, Subodh Mohite and Tilakdhari Singh

were going up abroad. The Government had to increase the price of diesel as there was no other go.

Natural Calamities in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa: Initiating a discussion under Rule 193 on 28 October 1999, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty (Communist Party of India) said that the severe cyclone had destroyed the entire coastal area of Orissa and West Bengal as well as parts of Andhra Pradesh leaving behind a trail of devastation. He urged the Central Government to provide assistance and save the affected from their plight.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the State Governments should be provided sufficient assistance to meet the situation arising out of the damage caused by floods or droughts.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao said that the cyclone over the Bay of Bengal had affected the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and caused damage to life and property in Orissa. The concerned Central Ministries and Departments had undertaken all necessary steps to provide assistance to the State Government of Orissa and for the immediate repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure. He assured the House that the Government was for the poor people and every effort would be made for their rehabilitation.

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs on Signing of three agreements, including the Extradition Treaty between India and UAE: Making a Statement in the House on 27 October 1999, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh, said that the UAE's Minister for Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf, Mr. Mohammed Bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, accompanied by an official Delegation, visited India from 25 to 26 October 1999. During the visit, an Extradition Treaty, an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and an Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters between India and the UAE, were signed.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Anadi Charan Sahu, K.P. Singh Deo, Sukhdeo Paswan, M. Janardhana Reddy, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Mehboob Zahedi, Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, Braja Kishore Tripathy, Kalava Srinivasulu, Ranen Barman, K.Yerrannaidu, Anil Basu, Bikram Deo Keshari, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Amar Roy Pradhan, Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Raghunath Jha, Kharabela Swain, Akhilesh Singh, Prabhunath Singh, Dr. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Dr. Manda Jagannath and Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee

The Extradition Treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking the extradition of fugitive criminals, including those involved in terrorism and economic offences from either country. Under the Treaty, extradition would be possible, irrespective of whether the crime was committed before or after the entry into force of this Treaty.

The Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters aimed to facilitate the widest measure of legal assistance in pursuing such cases. As a result of the Agreement, it would be possible to serve summons and other judicial documents issued by the courts of one country in the territory of the other. The judicial authority of one country could also, at the request of the other, take evidence. Further, the courts of one country would also be able to execute decrees and arbitration awards passed in the territory of the other.

The Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters aimed to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in the completion of investigation and prosecution in respect of all crimes, including those related to terrorism. It would provide the basis for seeking assistance for tracing, restraint, forfeiture or confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime. The Agreement would also facilitate the widest measure of mutual assistance in the service of summons, execution of warrants and other judicial documents and commissions.

Thus, the three Treaties embody the desire of the two countries to make more effective the bilateral cooperation by taking concrete steps with a view to combating terrorism and other crimes.

Statement by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources on the recent Delhi Visit of the US Secretary of Energy: Making a Statement in the House on 28 October 1999, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the United States Secretary of Energy, Mr. Bill Richardson visited Delhi on 26 October 1999. He addressed the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Conference on Energy, Efficiency and Environment, and interacted with a number of business and industry leaders.

The US official's official programme included meetings with the Ministers of Power; Environment and Forests; and External Affairs. The Delegation level talks were held with representatives of all the concerned Ministers and chaired by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh. Mr. Richardson also called on the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and handed over a letter from the US President, Mr. Bill Clinton addressed to the Prime Minister. Cooperation in

energy and related matters had been an important component of India's bilateral relations with the United States. The purpose of Secretary Richardson's visit was to review as well as to provide a renewed thrust to our cooperation in energy and related environmental matters, in a more integrated and focused manner. The visit provided an opportunity for substantive discussions on these aspects.

India welcomed the visit by Mr. Richardson, which was part of the ongoing process of developing a broad-based relationship with the United States, and expanding and diversifying areas of bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit. During the visit, a Joint Statement on Cooperation in Energy and Related Environmental Aspects was signed.

Statement by the Minister of Home Affairs on the Damage caused by the cyclone in the Coastal districts of Orissa: Making a Statement in the House on 29 October 1999, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that a very severe cyclone characterised as super-cyclonic storm hit the coast of Orissa causing vast devastation. The diameter of the cyclone was very large and wind speed went up to 260 kms. per hour at some places.

All the nine coastal districts of Orissa and three adjoining districts had been gravely affected. About one-and-a-half crore people had been affected. Damaged building and fallen trees had made movement inside and between the cities and villages almost impossible. Power and water supplies, road services and telecommunication services had been disrupted. The Army and the Air Force had been on the alert to render all essential help to the State Government. The AIR and the Doordarshan had been informing the people about the situation through news bulletins, special bulletins and hourly bulletins during the last four days. Helicopters had been kept ready and would start air dropping of food stuffs and other essential items.

The State Government took action during the three days to warn the people and for arranging evacuation to safer places and stocking essential supplies at selected places. Community kitchens and distribution of dry ration had commenced at many places. The Government of India had decided that the Department of Agriculture would arrange and indent supplies of food stuffs, essential medicines, polythene rolls, diesel generating sets, etc. as per requirements projected by the State authorities. Help was also being mobilised from neighbouring States. Indian Railways would carry free of charge food stuffs and relief materials to the affected areas.

The concerned Central Government Departments and the Ministries

had been directed to rush all necessary help to the State without waiting for a formal request from Delhi. The Armed Forces had also been mobilised. The Air Force, including their helicopters, etc. had also been mobilised. Many helicopters had been kept on alert and besides, the Navy had indicated that it had given assistance to fishermen for Andhra Pradesh as well as for Orissa.

Resolution on the Devastation caused by cyclone in Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh:

The following Resolution was adopted on 29 October 1999:

This House expresses its deep sense of shock at the devastation being caused by the high intensity cyclone reportedly causing serious loss of life and property suffered by people in some districts of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh and urges the Central and the State Governments to extend immediately all help and assistance to the people affected by this tragedy. This House offers condolences for the loss of life in the tragedy.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999*: Moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill on 27 October 1999, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that article 334 of the Constitution laid down that the provisions of the Constitution relating to the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the representation of the Anglo-Indian Community by nomination in the Lok Sabha and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States should cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of fifty years from the commencement of the Constitution. The fact remained that the necessity which created article 334 in the Constitution had not ceased to exist. Therefore, the period of fifty years would have to be extended.

Participating in the discussion, Kumari Mayawati (Bahujan Samaj Party) said that reservation had been implemented in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies but not in the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils, which should be implemented immediately.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26 October 1999

Taking part in the discussion*, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that unless crores of Adivasis, Backward Castes, Dalits and Oppressed were uplifted and given equal status, the country could not march ahead on the path of progress.

Supporting the motion, Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar (Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh) said that the word 'caste' should be banned in the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that if we put together the entire moral, spiritual and material resources, India should be able to achieve within ten years what had not been achieved during the last fifty years.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 and the Income Tax (Amendment), Bill** 1999*: Moving the Statutory Resolution on 28 October 1999, Shri Basu Deb Acharia (Communist Party of India (M)) said that the Government would have to do a lot more assistance to the soldiers who died in Kargil.

Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that in order to mobilise more funds for extending maximum support to the members of the Defence Forces and their families, donations made to the National Defence Fund were made fully deductible under the Income-tax Act by promulgating an Ordinance as the Parliament was not in Session.

Replying to the discussion***, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Government had brought the National Defence Fund at par with many other funds where there would be 100 per cent exemption under the Income Tax Act.

The Statutory Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill was passed.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Buta Singh, Kharabela Swain, Ramsagar, Naval Kishore Rai, K. Suresh, Mohan Rawale, D. Rama Naidu, Punnu Lal Mohale, Paty Ripple Kyndiah, Ramdas Athawale, Rattan Lal Kataria, Baju ban Riyan, Adhi Sankar, Rashtrapal Pravinchandra Somabhai, Anand Mohan Biswas, Dr. V. Saroja, Dr. (Smt.) C. Suguna Kumari, Smt. Sandhya Bauri and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26 October 1999

*** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ramesh Chennithala, and G.M. Banatwalla

Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1999:* Moving the Statutory Resolution on 28 October 1999, Shri Ramesh Chennithala said that a comprehensive Representation of the People Act was necessary and the Government should come forward with a comprehensive Bill for electoral reforms.

Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri O. Rajagopal said that a sizeable part of the population of the Kashmir Valley had migrated elsewhere. To enable the migrant voters from the Kashmir Valley to exercise their franchise, Ordinances were promulgated at the time of Lok Sabha elections. The Government had decided to make necessary amendment in the Act itself through the Bill by replacing the Ordinance.

Participating in the discussion**, Shri Ali Mohammad Naik (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) said that Kashmiri Pandits had been migrating from the State for the last ten years.

Replying to the discussion, Shri O. Rajagopal said that the Government was committed to electoral reforms and before bringing any legislation, there would be wide-ranging discussion with all political parties on the question of electoral reforms.

The Statutory Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill was passed.

C. OBITUARY REFEENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on 25 October 1999 to the passing away of the former President of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere; Shri Kshudiram Mahata, member of Provisional Parliament; and Sarvashri N.T. Das, Amar Singh Damar, J.M. Lobo Prabhu, Sidha Lal Murmu, Amar Nath Chawla, J. Vengal Rao, Braja Mohan Mohanty, Kalpanath Rai, Yadvendra Dutt, Dada Baburao Paranjpe, Ch. Lachchhi Ram, Acharya Bhagwan Dev, Prof. Parag Chaliha, Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Smt. Indubala Sukhadia and Rajmata Kamlendu Mati Shah, all former members. Obituary references were made on the same day to the supreme sacrifice made by the brave soldiers for the Motherland

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26 October 1999

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Varkala Radhakrishnan and V.M. Sudheeran

in Kargil. Obituary references were also made to the loss of several lives in a train accident on 2 August 1999. References were also made to the loss of many lives in the devastating cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal on 18 October 1999.

On 27 and 29 October 1999, obituary references were made to the passing away of Sarvashri K.N. Pradhan, Vamanrao Mahadik and Shrimati Malti Devi, all former members of the Lok Sabha.

Members stood in silence for a while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

SECOND SESSION

A. DISCUSSIONS/ STATEMENTS

The Second Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 29 November 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 1999. The House was prorogued by the President on 27 December 1999. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below.

Reference to the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India: On 29 November 1999, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi made in the House the following reference on the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India:

> Hon. Members, I refer to the successful completion of 50 years of the Constitution of India. Twenty-sixth November is a significant and an important day for our country. It is on this day, fifty years ago, that the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. The demand that India's political destiny should be determined by Indians themselves had been put forward by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi as early as in 1922. His much cherished dream came true when we adopted our Constitution.
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> As the members are aware, the Constituent Assembly of India met for 166 days spread over a period of 2 years, 11 months and 18 days. By the time the Constitution was adopted on the 26 November, 1949, the members of the Assembly had discussed threadbare each and every one of its provisions in the light of the experiences elsewhere while, of course, keeping in view our requirements and realities.

As our experience of the last fifty years demonstrates, our Constitution has been a dynamic document of national self-actualization. In every sense of the term, the Constitution reflects the soul of the nation and symbolizes the unity of our people and sovereign will.

The adaptability of the Constitution to the ever-changing reality has effectively made it a vehicle of social change, the process being substantially facilitated by our Parliament. Till date, as many as 78 amendments have been adopted, many of them going a long way in realizing the people's hopes and aspirations. A Constitution was basically a people's covenant, their Charter of Freedom and the blue print for their future.

The spirit of the entire Constitution is reflected in the Preamble itself, which declared the resolve of the people to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic.

The Preamble, as has been widely acclaimed, reflects the broad framework of ideas which are deeply ingrained in our ancient heritage and are part of the Indian ethos for which the Constitution stands and the fundamentals on which it has been founded.

The framers of our Constitution were people with vision and laid down certain parameters. In the fifty years of existence, our Constitution has withstood the pulls and pressures of a democratic society. Its basic structure had remained the same as envisaged by our Founding Fathers. Our Constitution remained the most important document in our nation's life, which guides and encourages us to rise to its hoary ideals. As inheritors of a great legacy, it was for us to translate the Founding Fathers' vision into reality. To that end, let us rededicate ourselves.

Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shrimati Indira Gandhi on being universally acknowledged as the Giants of the Millennium: On 3 December 1999, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi made the following observation on Mahatma Gandhi and Shrimati Indira Gandhi being universally acknowledged as the Giants of the Millennium:

Hon'ble members, as the world contemplates the great figures of this millennium, which is passing into history, two outstanding personalities have been universally acknowledged as the giants of this millennium. It is a matter of great pride for our country that both these world-figures are Indian.

Mahatma Gandhi—the Father of the Nation—was a man, the like of whom adorn this earth once in centuries. He was an apostle of peace who is widely acknowledged as one of the

architects of the 20th Century. His teachings of peace and non-violence serve us as beacons to this day. It is heartening to note that Mahatma Gandhi has been chosen by the *Asiaweek* magazine as the Asian of the Century. It is a great honour for the country.

In a BBC news online world poll, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who adorned this House for many years as Leader of the House and as Prime Minister, has been voted as "the greatest woman of the millennium" ahead of other great historical figures. This is a rare achievement and is an honour for our country.

I would like to record the tribute of this House to the memory of these two leaders of India.

Loss of Life and Property due to Super Cyclone in Orissa and the need to declare it as a National Calamity: Initiating a Discussion under Rule 193 on 29 November 1999, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma (Samajwadi Party) said that the costal Districts of Bhadrak, Jajpur, Balasore, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Paradeep, Jagatsinhpur and Puri bore the brunt of the devastating cyclone of unprecedented velocity. He urged the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to look into the urgent need of taking special remedial measures on a war footing in all spheres as the situation was very grim.

Intervening in the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that he had declared publicly that the Government had been treating it as a national calamity. The National Calamity Relief Fund and the relevant report of the Finance Commission said that there should not be any formal declaration in that regard. He assured that there would be no financial crunch for Orissa in dealing with the calamity.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar said that the Union Government had taken a number of steps to provide relief to the State. A task force under the Chairmanship of the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes had been constituted to oversee the reconstruction work in Orissa. A Calamity Relief Fund had already been constituted on the basis of the Ninth Finance Commission

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Trilochan Kanungo, Madhavrao Scindia, Anadi Charan Sahu, Hannan Mollah, K.P. Singh Deo, Prabhat Samantray, Bikram Keshari Deo, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, N. Janardhana Reddy, Rajesh Pilot, Jagannath Mallik, Arjun Sethi, Dr. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee

Report. A Committee had since been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture to see how the national fund for calamity relief could be spent properly. Efforts were being made to provide maximum relief to the people of Orissa, he added.

Problems faced by farmers in various parts of the country: Initiating a Discussion under Rule 193 on 7 December 1999, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra (Bharatiya Janata Party) said that millions of farmers depend on sugarcane and its farming for their livelihood. The payment for sugarcane should be made through banks and small farmers should be allowed to open accounts in banks. A National Sugar Policy should be formulated for the entire country.

Participating in the discussion*, Kumari Mayawati (Bahujan Samaj Party) said that a lot of amendments needed to be effected in the Agriculture Policy.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) urged the Government to bring out the National Agriculture Policy immediately.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular)) said that for the farmers prices should be fixed according to the cost of production.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar said that the Government intended to formulate a farmer-oriented Agriculture Policy which would safeguard their interests.

Issues of National Security and Rise of Militancy in various parts of the Country especially in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir: Initiating a discussion under Rule 193 on 14 December 1999, Shri Vilas Muttemwar (Indian National Congress) said that the problem of terrorism should be dealt with firmly. The Government should formulate a time-bound programme and comprehensive plan to root out terrorism.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Rajesh Pilot, Prabhunath Singh, Subodh Roy, Chandra Bhushan Singh, Avtar Singh Bhadana, Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, K.K.Kaliappan, A. Krishnaswami, Sukhdeo Paswan, Shyam Bihari Mishra, Bhan Singh Bhaura, S. Bangarappa, Prakash Mani Tripathi, Akhilesh Singh, Anandi Charan Sahu, J.S. Brar, Ashok Pradhan, Arun Kumar, Sunder Lal Tiwari, Tarlochan Singh Tur, Dharm Raj Singh Patel, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Anil Basu, Ramdas Athawale, Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, K.H. Muniyappa, Panna Lal Mohale, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu and Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Ali Mohammad Naik (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) said that as far as militancy in Kashmir was concerned, one should not shy away from the historical facts.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the problems of the people should be given top priority. The Home Department should keep vigil on terrorist activities and the State Governments should be provided financial assistance to tackle the situation.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular)) said that everybody would have to give up religious planks.

Replying to the discussion on 15 December 1999, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that in the present day situation, militancy had not been getting the same response and support of the people, and because of this, militancy had been receding. The Government would take all factors into consideration in addressing the issue.

Disinvestment Policy of the Government: Initiating a Discussion under Rule 193 on 16 December 1999, Shri Indrajit Gupta (Communist Party of India) urged the Government to resist the moves to privatise everything in the country and handover our resources to foreign parties.

Participating in the discussion**, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) had contributed a lot to the economy of the country. He wanted to know as to why the Government was trying to sell the shares of such PSUs which were earning profits.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Department of Disinvestment, Shri Arun Jaitley said that once the shares were sold, every realisation from the Public Sector would go into the Consolidated Fund of India. The Government would take utmost care that the disinvestment process

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Vaidya Vishnu Datt, Samar Choudhury, Ravi Prakash Verma, Prakash Mani Tripathi, Rajesh Pilot, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, Prabhunath Singh, Rashid Alvi, T.M. Selvaganapathi, K.A. Sangtam, Hannan Mollah, Ramdas Athawale, Bhan Sing Bhaura, Joachim Baxla, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Brahma Nand Mandal, Akhilesh Singh, Bijoy Krishna Handique and Shrimati Krishna Bose

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Kirit Somaiya, Basudeb Acharia, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah and Dr. V. Saroja

be done in the best public interest and efforts would also be made to realise the maximum amount as a value of each transaction. The policy in regard to disinvestment was that the Government shareholding in Public Sector Enterprises would be brought down to 26 per cent. In case of Public Sector Enterprises involving strategic considerations, the Government would continue to retain majority holding. The interest of workers would be protected in all cases.

Functioning of Prasar Bharati: Initiating a Discussion under Rule 193 on 21 December 1999, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy (Indian National Congress) said that the functioning of the Prasar Bharati had been subverted deliberately. In the Prasar Bharati Board, there must be experts from different disciplines. The electronic media should be liberated from the Government's stranglehold.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora (Indian National Lok Dal) said that there was an urgent need to improve the quality of the *Doordarshan* and the All India Radio as means of publicity. The Prasar Bharati was a step forward in that direction and was meant to grant autonomy to the media.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the media should remain free and fair. Democracy would be strengthened with the strengthening of the Fourth Estate.

Shir Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular)) said that the *Doordarshan* should take care of all the relevant needs of the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley said that it would be the endeavour of the Government to make a public service broadcaster with a distinct identity of its own.

Statement by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology on Y2K Problem in Computers and Computer Based Systems and Readiness of the Country: Making a Statement in the House on 17 December 1999, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the Y2K (Year 2000)

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Rupchand Pal, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, K.P. Singh Deo, Rashid Alvi, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, Dharam Raj Singh Patel, Suresh Kurup, Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, Trilochan Kanungo, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix D'Souza and Dr. Girija Vyas

problem had been receiving the attention of the Government. The Government had sensitized all the concerned Ministries/ Departments, agencies and organisations in public and private sector about the problem, and the need for remedial measures necessary for achieving Y2K readiness. A facilitation desk and website had been created to disseminate information about the problem. The Government had also permitted various Ministries, Departments and agencies to spend up to three per cent of their budget for Y2K preparedness. It had further mandated that all companies must declare their status of Y2K preparedness in their quarterly and annual reports.

The Committee of Secretaries set up for this purpose had been reviewing the status of Y2K readiness of eleven critical sectors, namely banking and finance, insurance, telecommunications, power, civil aviation, railways, petroleum and natural gas, ports, space, atomic energy and defence. Two of the priority sectors, namely, civil aviation and power had been reviewed by foreign consultants through the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the World Bank.

The Government of India had set up a high level Action Force on managing the impact of Y2K problem in India with representatives from the Government, industry associations, banks and financial institutions, railways, defence services, utility and other public service organisations as members. The Action Force submitted its Report in October 1999, which was widely disseminated. The Action Force had also been closely monitoring the progress of Y2K readiness in all the sectors at the national level.

The Prime Minister had addressed letters to Chief Ministers of all the States and Union territories advising them of the importance of Y2K readiness and to initiate necessary remedial action.

The Ministry of Information Technology would set up a National Control Room at the headquarter of the National Informatics Centre in New Delhi which would closely coordinate and work with the sectoral control rooms of the various Ministries of the Union Government of India and would operate from 28 December 1999 to 3 January 2000. All the State Governments had also been requested to set up Control Rooms in the State capitals and district headquarters to provide information and technical support. The Minister added that all the concerned sectors had been continuously monitoring, checking and rechecking their state of preparedness so that the roll over to the new millennium would be smooth.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999:* Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration on 30 November 1999, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1998 was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for examination and report. The recommendations of the Standing Committee had been accepted by the Government. The amendments to the IRDA Bill, 1998 were introduced in the Lok Sabha on 18 March 1999 but the Bill could not be taken up for consideration consequent upon the dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Opposing the Bill**, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) said that there was no need for the proposed Insurance Bill.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the Bill should be withdrawn in the interest of the poor masses.

Dr. Jayanta Rongpi (Communist Party of India (M-L) stated that the Bill would make India weak economically and would make us succumb to the pressures of the multinationals.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular)) wanted to know how the Government would exercise control over the companies which would enter the insurance sector.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) said that the privatisation of the insurance sector would be a challenge to the sovereignty of the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Bill was in the national interest. The IRDA could call for any document and inspect a document and provide such directions as necessary in the interest of the policy holders. The functioning of the companies would be watched by the Regulatory Authority.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28 October 1999

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kirit Somaiya, Rajesh Pilot, J.S. Brar, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Rupchand Pal, Nitish Sengupta, K. Malaisamy, Adhi Sankar, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, Kharabela Swain, Sontosh Mohan Dev, Joachim Baxla, Amar Roy Pradhan, Ramdas Athawale, Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Rashid Alvi, M.V.V.S. Murthy, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Uttamrao Dhikale, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1999:* Moving that the Bill be taken for consideration, on 8 December 1999, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that there was a need to curtail the level of VIP security. The Government had a proposal for not using the National Security Guard for VIP security.

Supporting the Bill**, Kumari Mayawati (Bahujan Samaj Party) said that the SPG cover should only be provided to those VIPs having threat to their lives.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that security cover for VIPs should not be curtailed only because it involved huge expenses.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that the Government would spend that much amount on security as would be required. Important persons in public life, bureaucrats, judges and holders of high offices would be identified to be provided with security cover. It was for the first time a provision had been made in the Bill regarding threat perception.

The Bill was passed.

The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Bill 1999:* Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, on 15 December 1999, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Maneka Gandhi said that the Central Government sought to set up a trust which would uphold the rights, promote the development and safeguard the interests of persons with such disability. The proposed National Trust would support programmes which would promote independence, facilitate guardianship where necessary and address the concerns of those special persons not having family.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 3 December 1999

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri P. Rajendran, T.M. Selvaganapathi, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Vijay Goel, Mohan Rawale, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, G.M. Banatwalla, Pravin Rashtrapal, Raghunath Jha, and Shrimati Shyama Singh

*** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9 December 1999

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Somnath Chatterjee (Communist Party of India (M)) said that for proper protection of the people suffering from these diseases, something concrete should be done.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the Government should think in the direction of allocating adequate funds for the affected people.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular) said that people with disabilities had been provided three per cent reservations but neither the Central Government nor the State Governments had filled up their quota.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Maneka Gandhi appealed to the members to support the Bill wholeheartedly.

The Bill was passed.

*The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill***, 1999: Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, on 20 December 1999, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that during the discussion on the Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1997 in the Rajya Sabha, some members felt that the facilities being provided to the Vice-President of India in terms of accommodation, office expenses and travels were not commensurate with the dignity of the office. The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999 sought to achieve two new provisions which *inter alia* provided that when a person would be re-elected to the office of the Vice-President, such person or the spouse of such person should not be entitled to any benefit under the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997 during the period he holds such office; and if the Vice-President would get elected to the office of the President, he or his spouse should not be entitled to any facilities under the provisions of the said Act.

The Bill was passed without any discussion.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ratilal Kalidas Verma, Anadi Charan Sahu, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Gadde Rama Mohan, K.H.Muniyappa, Mohan Rawale, Trilochan Kanungo, Akhilesh Singh, Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, Dr. A.D.K. Jayaseelan, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Smt. Renuka Choudhury, Smt. Reena Choudhary, Dr. Girija Vyas and Dr. V. Saroja

** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 10 December 1999

*The Copyright (Amendment) Bill**, 1999: Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, on 22 December 1999, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Science and Technology and Ocean Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said that after signing the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, it had become necessary to make some amendments. Such amendments in the Bill would be benefiting litterateures, artists and other people working in the Doordarshan and films.

Participating in the discussion**, Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) said that the Bill aimed at protecting the rights of the broadcasting organisations. But there should be an enforcement mechanism to protect the Indian interest in the braodcasting organisation.

Opposing the Bill, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular)) urged the Government to protect the interests of those artists pursuing arts in the rural areas.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that any measure that would endanger the dignity and identity of the country would be opposed.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Science and Technology and Ocean Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said that the Government was committed to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the country.

The Bill was passed.

*The Trade Marks Bill, 1999****: On 22 December 1999, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran said that the proposed Bill sought to amend and consolidate the law relating to trade marks in order to provide for the registration and better protection of trade marks for goods and services and for the prevention of use of fraudulent trade marks. The Bill further sought to provide for an Appellate Board for the speedy disposal of appeals.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 20 December 1999

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Pravin Rashtrapal, Anadi Charan Sahu and Swadesh Chakraborty

*** The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 20 December 1999

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran said that the Bill had been brought in to protect the Indian trade marks which were becoming popular.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Second Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, in all, 11,694 notices of questions (9,019 Starred, 2,646 Unstarred and 29 Short Notice Questions) were received.

Out of these, 380 notices were admitted as Starred, 3,769 as Unstarred and 2 Short Notice Questions.

Due to interruptions in the House on 7 December 1999, Starred Questions were not called for oral answer. Replies to Starred Questions listed for the day were treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to Unstarred Questions were printed in the official Report of the day.

Daily average of Questions in the List of Questions orally answered: The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during the Session was three. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered was six on 30 November 1999.

The average number of Questions in the Unstarred List came to 198 against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 129 questions on 16 December 1999.

Half-an-Hour Discussions: In all, 47 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussions were received during the Session. Out of these, 20 notices were admitted, but only five were discussed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on 29 November 1999 to the passing away of Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament and Shri M. Sankarapandian, former member of the Lok Sabha. Obituary references were also made to the loss of several lives in the devastating cyclone in Orissa.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, V.P. Singh Badnore, Bikram Keshariden, Trilochan Kanungo, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Rupchand Pal, Annasaheb M.K. Patil, T.M. Selvaganapathi, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah and Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel

Obituary references were also made on 10, 13, 17, 22 and 23 December 1999 to the passing away, respectively, of Sarvashri Surti Kistaiya; P. Venkata Reddy and Narhari Prasad Sai; Krishan Lal Sharma; G.I. Patel; and Ram Deni Ram and Ram Pyare Panika, all former members of Lok Sabha.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eighty-seventh(187th) Session on 21 October 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 29 October 1999.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period** is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Motion of Thanks on the Address by the President : The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Address*** by the President to the members of Parliament took place on 26, 27 and 28 October 1999.

Initiating the discussion on 26 October 1999, Shri Arun Shourie commended the Address as primary importance was given to the social sector, the continuing structural reforms and the partnership of the private and the corporate sector in a common programme. He said that the focus had to be shifted to the new industries but existing institutions required equal attention.

Participating in the discussion, Shri S.Viduthalai Virumbi said that as regards the Centre-State relations, the Government would implement the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

Taking part in the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the nation could meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century by working unitedly. He urged the Government to pay more attention to developing India's relations with

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* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

** There was no Question Hour during this period

*** For the text of the Address, *see* Feature "Address by the President to Parliament", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. XLV, No. 4, December 1999, pp. 408-20

Japan, to take an active interest in SAARC and in the preparations for the Uruguay Round of negotiations. He wanted an authoritative statement from the Government with regard to the preparedness to meet the Y2K problem as it could affect investors' sentiment in the country. With regard to the infrastructure sector, a new management system was needed in the State Electricity Boards as also a regulatory mechanism which would inspire confidence among industries. In the Railway System, the problem of obsolescence needed to be dealt with to avoid accidents.

Participating in the discussion, Shri E. Balanandan said that India being a multi-religious and multi-cultural country, the framework of the Constitution should not be touched by any Government in power. He expressed concern that under liberalisation, the private sector operation of the economy would result in the marginalisation of the weaker sections and the weaker nations and the development of economic differences within each country.

On 27 October 1999, Shri J.Chitharanjan expressed concern at the increase in financial deficit, unemployment and poverty. He urged the Government to implement the second generation of economic reforms programme with determination and high speed.

Shri Satishchandra Sitaram Pradhan appreciated the proposal for a term of five years for the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas. He requested the Government to restore administrative, financial and executive powers of the States rights upto Panchayat Level.

Shri Korambayil Ahamed Haji exhorted the Government to maintain India's unity in diversity and to solve problems with neighbouring countries in a peaceful manner. He also called for effective measures to eliminate delays in the judicial system. It was necessary, to constitute a Bench of the Supreme Court in South India, he added.

Replying to the discussions* on 28 October 1999, the Minister of

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri K. Kalavenkata Rao, N. Thalavai Sundaram, S. Ramachandran Pillai, R. Margabandu, Khagen Das, Sanatan Bisi, Dipankar Mukherjee, O.S. Manian, Nilotpal Basu, Vayalar Ravi, Pranab Mukherjee, Ranganath Misra, C. Ramachandraiah, K. R. Malkani, Eduardo Faleiro, Janeshwar Misra, Prafull Goradia, S.B. Chavan, Govind Ram Miri, Sangh Priya Gautam, K.M. Saifullah, Shankar Roy Chawdhary, Kuldip Nayyar, Kapil Sibal, Rama Shanker Kaushik, D.P. Yadav, Yadlapati Venkat Rao, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Gandhi Azad, Lalitbhai Mehta, H.K. Javare Gowda, R.N. Arya, Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Md. Salim, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Dr. (Shrimati) Joyasree Goswami Mahanta, Shrimati Saroj Dubey, Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata, Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan and Shrimati Veena Verma.

External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the President's Address reflected the foundation of the Agenda of the National Democratic Alliance. The Agenda was for a proud, prosperous and resurgent India which had been inspired by the vision of faster growth, employment and equity. The attempt of the Government was to bring about change with continuity. There was a need for consensus, cooperation and coordination between the Centre and the States. As regards the finances of the States, the Planning Commission had a more direct role in examining or allocating sums of money to the States. The Government had commissioned a Task Force on informatics and software development because India had the potential to be a global leader in software. The Government was committed to make all preparations to meet the problems of Y2K. A Task Force had also been set up to encourage the pharmaceutical industry. On the question of sugar, he said that on 9 March 1994, a decision had been taken to put sugar on the free list of imports. As regards the insurgency problem in the North-Eastern States, adequate measures would be taken in letter and spirit. He said that the Committee on Kargil was looking into various aspects of the Kargil operations. The Minister said that the May 1998 nuclear tests were simply a decision to acquire for India the required degree of strategic space and autonomy, which had been denied to India with the end of the Cold War in 1989. He said that the USA, for the first time, had sought a dialogue with India on the World Trade Organizartion (WTO) and Seattle Round-related issues. The European Union and Japan had also shown a similar interest.

All the amendments moved were either withdrawn or negatived and the Motion of Thanks was adopted.

Statement by the *Minister of Human Resource Development and Science and Technology on the "Award of Swarnajayanti Fellowships for the Year 1999-2000" for Young Scientists* : On 26 October 1999, the Minister of Human Resource Development and Science and Technology, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said that the objective of the Swarnajayanti Fellowships Scheme, launched on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, was to encourage young scientists to undertake basic research in frontier areas of science and technology and achieve standards of excellence comparable with the best in the world. Outstanding young scientists, in the age group of 30-40 years, with a proven track record were eligible for these fellowships. The selected candidates would be given fellowship amount of Rs.25,000/- per month and support to a research programme in the frontier areas of science, engineering or medicine for a maximum period of five years. The support under the

project covered grants for equipment, manpower, contingencies, consumables, travel, including international travel, and administrative and infrastructural support. A stringent procedure for screening the applications had been adopted.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that the *Swarnajayanti* Fellowships were constituted in the year 1997 by the then Government of India, and the guidelines were published then.

Short Duration Discussion on havoc caused by recent cyclone/ floods in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other parts of the country : Initiating a Short Duration Discussion on 29 October 1999, Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy expressed concern at the loss of lives and the extensive damage done to crops and properties by the cyclone. He requested the provision of adequate aid and compensation to the affected farmers of the cyclone affected areas.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao said that the basic responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamities was that of the concerned State Governments. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal had been informed about the impending storm and were requested to take suitable preparatory measures like timely evacuation of people living in low lying and vulnerable areas to safer places and instructing fishermen not to venture into the sea. The Union Government had remained in constant touch with the State Governments and monitored the situation. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments had undertaken all necessary steps to provide assistance to the State Government of Orissa in relief and restoration measures and for immediate repair/restoration of damaged infrastructure. Exgratia payment at the rate of Rs.50,000/- had been provided from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of the deceased.

Short Duration Discussion on recent steep hike in diesel price and the consequent hardships being faced by the people : Initiating a Short Duration Discussion in this regard on 29 October 1999, Shri Suresh Pachouri said that due to the recent hike in diesel price, prices of

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, M.Venkaiah Naidu, Nilotpal Basu, Sanatan Bisi, Ram Deo Bhandari, Ranganath Misra, Janeshwar Misra, M.J. Varkey Mattathil, Rumandla Ramachandraiah, Naresh Yadav, Ananta Sethi, Santosh Bagrodia, Bratin Sengupta, Dr.M.N. Das and Dr.(Shrimati) Joyasree Goswami Mahanta

common consumer goods were also rising indiscriminately. Middle men and agents were taking advantage of the situation.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri R. Margabandu expressed concern over the 35 per cent hike in the price of diesel and a hundred per cent hike in the price of crude oil. As an alternative solution, he suggested to the Government to increase the tax on luxury items like cars to reduce the diesel price.

Shri S. Vidhuthalai Virumbi hoped for an early reduction of the price of diesel, even while appreciating the fact that the Government had been pressurized to pay an enormous amount for the import of oil.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik said that nearly seventy per cent of the total requirement of crude oil in the country was imported. Wherever exploration had been done and information was available, the Government would formulate a macro plan as to how promptly crude oil could be extracted by scientific methods. He said that the increase in the price of diesel in the international market started in February 1999. Whereas the price of crude oil had increased by 119 per cent by September 1999, the price of diesel had also increased by 94 per cent. He said that the current oil pool account deficit stood at Rs.5,200 crore with the rise in prices. The Government, therefore, had no other option but to raise the price.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999*** : Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 28 October 1999, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that the moral, material and spiritual resources of the nation had to be summoned to put the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on a level of equality with others.

Article 334 of the Constitution laid down that the provisions of the Constitution relating to the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the representation of the Anglo-Indian

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Raghavji, Ramashanker Kaushik, Dipankar Mukherjee, Radhakrishan Malaviya, Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, Sangh Priya Gautam, Naresh Yadav, Balkavi Bairagi, Dara Singh Chauhan, Ramji Lal, Bratin Sengupta, Pranab Mukherjee, Dr. (Shrimati) Joyasree Goswami Mahanta and Shrimati Kamla Sinha

** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 27 October 1999.

community by nomination in the Lok Sabha and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States would cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of fifty years from the commencement of the Constitution. Although the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have made considerable progress in the last fifty years, the reasons which weighed with the Constituent Assembly in making provisions with regard to the aforesaid reservation of seats and nomination of members, have not ceased to exist. Therefore, this Bill sought to continue the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the representation of the Anglo-Indians by nomination for a further period of ten years.

Replying to the debate*, the Minister said that India could not claim to be a nation until and unless every section of the people was ensured dignity, status, equality of opportunity, and a share in the country's prosperity as stated in the Preamble of our Constitution. There had been some improvement in the condition of the depressed classes. Reservations served at least one purpose that the representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes sat in both the Houses of Parliament and in the legislative bodies.

However, the benefits of reservations had not percolated down to a large section of the Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes. The amelioration of the condition of the Scheduled Castes had to start at the education stage. He assured that the issue of granting loans to SC/ST youth and other related issues would be seriously considered at the convention of SC/ST members of Parliament. The problem of poverty could be removed only by sound economic management and by seriously dealing with the problem of corruption, he concluded.

The Motion for consideration of the Bill, Clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed on the same day.

C. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere, and Sarvashri Parag Chaliha, Ish Dutt Yadav and R.K. Kumar, sitting members, and

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri H. Hanumanthappa, Bangaru Laxman, Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, Chaudhary Chunni Lal, Onward L. Nongtdu, Ram Deo Bhandari, Nagendra Nath Ojha, Sangh Priya Gautam, R. Margabandu, RadhaKrishan Malaviya, Satishchandra Sitaram Pradhan, Rajubhai A. Parmar, S. Peter Alphonse, Gandhi Azad, K. Rahman Khan, Sanatan Bisi, R.N. Arya, V.P. Duraisamy, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Dr.(Smt.) Joyasree Goswami Mahanta, Smt. Sarla Maheshwari, Smt. Kamla Sinha, Dr.(Kumari) P. Selvie Das and Kumari Saroj Khaparde.

Sarvashri Salay Mohammed Sait, Adityendra, Virendra Kumar Sakhalecha, K.K. Madhavan, T.V.Anandan, K.N. Singh, Thakur Jagatpal Singh, Lalsawia, Kalpnath Rai, Maqsood Ali Khan and Shrimati Sharda Bhargava, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eighty-eighth (188th) Session on 29 November 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 1999.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below:

A. STATEMENT/ DISCUSSIONS

Statement by the Minister of Commerce and Industry regarding the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO at Seattle : On 8 December 1999, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran said that the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held at Seattle assumed importance because of the efforts by a significant number of member countries to seek an endorsement from the Conference for the proposal to launch a comprehensive round of negotiations covering a wide range of subjects, including the proposal to link trade with labour issues. As part of the consultation process, meetings of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the official level and G-15 members at the Ministerial level were also held. Working Groups were formed to discuss various subjects, including agriculture, market access and implementation and other issues and to arrive at consensus—based recommendations relating to negotiating mandate or decisions as the case may be. India had effectively opposed the inclusion of non-trade issues like labour standards in the Agenda of the WTO. Shri Maran stated that as no consensus-based conclusion could be reached on most of the issues before the Ministerial Conference, no declaration was finalized and issued. The Chairperson of the WTO in the closing Plenary session had indicated that the Director-General, WTO, would hold consultations with member-countries and make a proposal for resuming the work of the Ministerial Conference. The mandated negotiations under the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture and the General Agreement on Trade in Services would take place as scheduled with effect from 1 January 2000, he concluded.

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* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Situation Arising out of Non-Payment of Wages and Salaries to the Employees of Several Public Sector Undertakings : On 10 December 1999, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta called the attention of the Minister of Labour, to the situation arising out of non-payment of wages and salaries to the employees of several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Labour, Dr. Satya Narayan Jatiya said that the main reason for default in the payment of statutory dues, including wages and salaries, to the employees was the continued loss incurred by the Undertakings resulting in erosion of net worth and lack of funds to pay the workers. In India, he said, closure of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings(CPSUs) was difficult to effect. Even if a Unit had been incurring losses for several years and was non-operational, the workers continued to be on the rolls and were entitled to receive all the benefits of employment, *i.e.* wages and salaries, Provident Fund, Gratuity, etc. With growing industrial sickness, the number of cases referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) had been increasing, making the procedure for revival or liquidation of companies a time consuming affair. The Ministry of Finance had been providing budgetary resources in the form of non-Plan loans for payment of wages and salaries to workers in those CPSUs which were not operational and had to be wound up. In the Central Government Budget for the year 1999-2000, a total of Rs.1,735 crore had been provided as non-Plan loans to sick and convalescent PSUs, mainly for payment of salaries and wages to the employees.

Budgetary support for wages and salaries were normally provided on net basis and no support was generally available for the payment of Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) dues which were to be deducted from the salary. The managements of CPSUs had been told to exercise greater economy in operations and to generate more internal resources of their own to meet their own liabilities. On the basis of information furnished by various Ministries and Departments, the outstanding statutory dues of workers employed in CPSUs was around Rs. 2,000 crore as on 30 June 1999 of which wage-related dues were almost Rs. 350 crore.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that the Government wanted that the PSUs should function properly and fulfil their liabilities. The BIFR had to be made workable to take right decisions. The Government had issued 20152 recovery certificates with regard to the Provident Fund. It was also in the process of making amendments in the Payment of Wages Act.

Naxalite activities in the country : On 23 December 1999, Shri Sanjay Nirupam called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the Naxalite activities in the country.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that the problem of left wing extremism had become a matter of national concern and could not be regarded as a localised phenomenon. The main extremist groups were the Communist Party of India(Marxist-Leninist) [CPI-(ML)], the Peoples' War Group (PWG) and the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC). These extremists attempted to inflict as much damage as possible to the property of the Government and the targeted people.

The Minister said that a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the concerned States had been convened at Hyderabad on 15 June 1998 to review the action taken by the States in curbing left wing extremism as well as to prepare a strategy for tackling the problem effectively. As a follow-up of the decisions taken at the Meeting, the Ministry of Home Affairs had set up a Coordination Centre headed by the Union Home Secretary, with Chief Secretaries and Directors-General of Police of the affected States as its members. He said that the States would prepare Action Plans incorporating the security as well as the development aspects in respect of the affected areas. Action Plans had so far been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa only. The Planning Commission would consider it in consultation with the concerned States. The Government had also formulated a Scheme for reimbursement to the extent of 50 per cent of the security-related expenditure incurred by the States in tackling the problem of left wing extremism, covering the period from 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2001. In addition, the Central Government had taken various other measures to help the States such as holding of coordination meetings with the States concerned, sharing of intelligence, training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations, upgrading of weapons and making available Central Para-Military forces as and when required by the States.

Replying to the points raised by members, the Minister said that giving clearance to the expenditure directly related with the security and modernization of police, the primary responsibility lay with the State Governments and not with the Centre. Terrorism in Punjab had been controlled only with the cooperation and coordination of the public, the police, para-military forces and the Army. Hence, the activeness of the State Police was a must.

Short Duration Discussion on Unprecendented Super Cyclone devastating coastal districts of Orissa on 29-30 October, 1999 and the

demand to declare it as a national calamity and the relief and rehabilitation measures : Initiating a Short Duration Discussion in this regard on 30 November 1999, Dr. M.N. Das said that the super—cyclone which continued for 36 hours was a challenge to the scientific community, environmentalists and meteorologists. He observed that without remedial measures right in advance, the entire Eastern Coast of India would not escape similar super cyclones in future. He urged the Government to declare the super-cyclone as a national calamity and come to the rescue of the distressed people who would take 50 years to rise to the level that they had reached after Independence.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi, felt that the National Disaster Management system was yet to be developed in India. The National Calamity Fund had not been adequate to help the people at the time of natural calamities.

Shri R. Margabandu pointed out the urgent need to think of a proper and effective preventive measure to tackle natural calamities which occurred almost annually and suggested that each State could adopt a particular devastated area to improve and redeem it. The Central Government's allotment of Rs.300 crore towards national calamity needed to be increased to rehabilitate and save the affected people.

The Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes, said that the Armed Forces, Coast Guards, personnel of the Territorial Army and Border Roads Organization and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) engaged themselves in relief and rescue operations. He said that the whole nation had stood united to help the people of Orissa. The State Government had demanded a total amount of Rs.657 crore for relief out of which a sum of Rs.500 crore had already been released. As regards the recommendations of the Ninth and Tenth Finance Commissions, the Minister said that there was no question of defining and declaring it as a national calamity because the Tenth Finance Commission had said that it could not be defined. So far as long-term measures for tackling such types of calamities were concerned, he said that in the first instance, one-room cement concrete houses would be built. Thereafter, one or two more rooms could be further added by the individuals con-

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Nilotpal Basu, Ranganath Misra, Yadlapati Venkat Rao, Sanatan Bisi, Balkavi Bairagi, Ram Deo Bhandari, Rama Shanker Kaushik, N.R. Dasari, Kuldip Nayyar, Prafull Goradia, Naresh Yadav, C. Ramachandraiah, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Ramachandra Khuntia, Kartar Singh Duggal, Gandhi Azad, Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Chaudhary Chunni Lal, Shrimati Shabana Azmi and Miss Frida Topno.

cerned. The construction of houses also included construction of hospitals, schools, etc. He said that doctors from other parts of the country would have to be sent to provide psychological consolation to the victims. Industries in the area would be revived by settlement of insurance claims by the GIC and by providing capital through banks. The Prime Minister had also asked the Task Force to make long-term planning for providing employment and to decide the measures to be taken for tackling such calamities in future.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar, said that the total crop area affected by the cyclone was 17.11 lakh hectares and the Government hoped to cover an area of 9.38 lakh hectares under the Rabi cropping programme. The State Government would have to take initiative in regard to the availability of seeds and cattle-feed.

Short Duration Discussion on the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and the Statement made by the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Initiating a Short Duration Discussion in this regard on 9 December 1999, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held at Seattle, USA had ended without any Ministerial Declaration.

Regarding the minimum agricultural imports, he said that India's market was protected but there could be pressure to reduce the tariffs. He observed that the industrialised countries emphasised only on one aspect of the investment which was trade. But the developmental angle had to be decided by the concerned country depending on the socio-economic conditions prevailing at the point of time.

Participating in the discussion, Shri J. Chitharanjan urged the Government to resist the inclusion of new items in the Agenda for the next round of negotiations like labour and environmental standards. With regard to the opening up of the market, he said that the country's trade had to be developed and its interests and sovereignty protected.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran said that in Seattle, India stood firm on the national consensus and opposed other issues being related with trade. India had resisted the efforts made in the Conference to introduce core labour

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sanatan Bisi, Rama Shanker Kaushik, Kapil Sibal, Gandhi Azad, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Prafull Goradia, Narendra Mohan, Dr.L.M. Singhvi and Dr. Biplab Dasgupta.

standards. The WTO had to be made genuinely democratic. It was not a global government, but merely a place where Governments made agreements regarding trade and subjected themselves to arbitration in the event of a dispute. The Minister appealed in favour of the reform process and said that unless the WTO was delinked from non-trade issues, the developing and the less developed countries could not survive.

Short Duration Discussion on the Disinvestment Policy of the Government : Initiating a Short Duration Discussion in this regard on 13, December 1999, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta said that in case of disinvestments, there should be a sale of 20 per cent of the Government equity in the Public Sector Undertakings to pay for the budgetary deficits and the equity had to be sold to mutual funds and financial institutions including banks. He called upon the Government to delink disinvestments from the Budget and to set up a separate fund that would foster national growth to bring about improvement in the process of human development in the country. He suggested that there should be a full-time separate permanent machinery to carry out the process of disinvestments.

Participating in the discussion Shri R. Margabandu pointed out that private sector units were in profit because of a proper management system and called for a stricter Government mechanism.

Shri Jayant Kumar Malhoutra urged the Government to study the likely impact of disinvestment on the social sectors before taking any step in this regard.

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Department of Disinvestment, Shri Arun Jaitley stated that since 1991, the country had witnessed different processes by which disinvestments had been carried out like the bundling system and the auction process. The second round of the auction process had also entitled the overseas corporations to bid for the PSUs. Disinvestment would not lead to closure of a unit. He said that some institutional mechanism had to be set up within the Department itself with the priority that the Government would be able to realise the best revenue for it.

Replying to the discussion,* the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant

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* Others who took part in discussion were : Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, Ramdas Aggarwal, Dipankar Mukherjee, Santosh Bagrodia, P. Prabhakar Reddy, V.P. Duraisamy, Vayalar Ravi and Dr. Raja Ramanna

Sinha said that the total receipt from disinvestments so far had been Rs. 18,288 crore. The total budgetary support to the PSUs during the same period, including the current Budget was Rs.61,968 crore. The total dividend that the Government had received during the current period from its investment of over Rs.90, 000 crore in the Public Sector was less than Rs.10,000 crore. He said that the Government had decided that in the generality of the cases, its shareholding in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) would be brought down to 26 per cent. The Government's strategy towards PSEs would continue to encompass a judicious mix of strengthening the strategic units and privatising the non-strategic units. The Minister also said that out of the proceeds of disinvestment, the Government would create new assets in the commercial and the social sector. He clarified that the creation of the new Department of Disinvestment was not a replacement for the Disinvestment Commission. The nodal Ministry for Disinvestment had been created so that the whole programme of disinvestment could move ahead. The Government would soon reconstitute the Disinvestment Commission, he concluded.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999 :* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 29 November 1999, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that the Bill was in accordance with the recommendations of the two Committees-Justice V.S.Malimath Committee and the Committee on Subordinate Legislation (11th Lok Sabha) and the Law Commission which had examined the provisions. He said that the Bill sought to make amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, keeping in view, among other things that every effort should be made to expedite the disposal of civil suits and proceedings so that justice may not be delayed.

Replying to the discussion**, the Minister said that in so far as the system of accountability was concerned, it was a matter of character, competence and vigilance which could not be brought about by legislations. It would require an amendment to the Constitution of India. One of the causes of delay in the legal system was the unjustified adjournments. The Judiciary had to be sensitised. The Bar Council of India had

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14 August 1997

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Govind Ram Miri, Ranganath Misra, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Fali S. Nariman, H. Hanumanthappa, Jalaludin Ansari, R. Margabandu, Sangh Priya Gautam and Naresh Yadav

been told to enact a rule of professional conduct. A paper on professional ethics had been introduced in law colleges, he added.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed on the same day.

The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999 :* Moving the motion for its consideration on 3 December 1999, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that the Bill sought to widen the scope of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) functioning. It sought to empower the Government to deploy the CISF for the protection of property of other Government-funded organisations and to perform such other security duties as were entrusted by the Government. It also proposed to amend Section 9 to 22 of the CISF Act to make provisions for filing of revision petitions in disciplinary cases and their disposal before the next superior authority.

The Motion** for consideration of the Bill and clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed on the same day.

*The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999***:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 6 December 1999, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Bill sought to open up the Insurance Sector with a 26 per cent cap on the aggregate investment by foreign companies.

Replying to the points**** raised by the members on 7 December 1999, the Minister said that the Bill was not about the privatisation of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the General Insurance Corporation (GIC). The Government was in favour of competition between the private and the public sector. An Indian Insurance Company would have to be registered with the Insurance Regulatory Authority. The Government would not permit policy-holders' fund to be sent out of the country. The manner of investment in the country would be determined by the Insurance Regulatory Authority. Fifty per cent would be invested in

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 3 December 1999

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri N. Thalaval Sundaram, and Adhik Shirodkar

*** The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 3 December 1999

****Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ram Shanker Kaushik, Gurudas Das Gupta, Dipanker Mukherjee, J. Chitharanjan, Jibon Roy, Bratin Sengupta, S. Ramachandran, Pranab Mukherjee, Narendra Mohan, Nilotpal Basu, Suresh A. Keswani, C, Ramachandraiah, Raghavji, C.M. Ibrahim, Naresh Yadav, Sangh Priya Gautam, V.P. Duraisamy, R. Margabandu, Jayanta Roy, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Gandhi Azad, Dr. M.N. Das, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Dr. (Kumari) P. Selvie Das and Kumari Mabel Rebello

Government securities and Government-approved securities. The balance would be guided by the Insurance Regulatory Authority. He said that the social sector in insurance would not be neglected. Regarding funds used in the social sector by the LIC and the GIC, he said that the LIC had built up a corpus of funds in 1988-89 due to exemption from income tax. It was supporting the rural-cum-weaker sections insurance policies out of that corpus. As far as the GIC was concerned, the money had been made available to it annually by the Union Budget for social security and welfare schemes for the poor.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed on 7 December 1999.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the One Hundred and Eighty-eighth Session of the Rajya Sabha, 4,584 notices of questions (4,247 Starred and 337 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 379 Questions were admitted as Starred and 2,451 as Unstarred. Total number of notices of questions received in Hindi was 929.

Daily Average of Questions: For all days, the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each except for 30 November 1999, which contained 19 Questions. On an average, 4 questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered on a particular day was 7 on 9 December 1999 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was 3 on 30 November1999 and also on 1, 8, 14, 16 and 22 December 1999, respectively.

The minimum number of Unstarred Questions listed on any day was 81 on 9 December 1999 and the maximum number was 155 on several days. The average of Unstarred Questions listed during the entire Session was 129.

Half-an-Hour Discussion : Out of the sixteen notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion received, four were admitted and discussed.

Short Notice Questions : Out of the four Short Notice Questions received, one was admitted and discussed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Shri T.M. Venkatachalam, sitting member, and Sarvashri T.Chengalvaroyan, K.L. Sharma, Prof. Ramlal Parikh, and Dr.(Shrimati) Sathiavani Muthu, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly met in its First Session on 13 and 14 October 1999. The House which re-assembled on 16 December 1999 was adjourned *sine die* on 17 December 1999.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh addressed the House on 14 October 1999. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Rima Taipodia and was seconded by Shri Phosum Khimhunm, both members of the Assembly. The Motion was discussed on 16 December 1999. Five other members participated in the discussion. The motion was adopted unanimously after a reply by the Chief Minister.

Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker: During the Session, Shri Tamiyo Taga of the Indian National Congress was elected unanimously as the Speaker on 14 October 1999. Shri Rajesh Tacho of the Indian National Congress was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Gyati Taka, a former Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Ninth Session on 29 October 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 4 November 1999. The Assembly also held a one day special Session on 22 December 1999 for the ratification of the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999.

Financial business: During the Session, the Supplementary Budgetary Demands for Grants and the relevant Appropriation Bill were passed by the House.

Obituary references: On 29 October 1999, obituary references were made on the passing away of sixteen well-known personalities and on the loss of life in the Gaisal rail accident in West Bengal. Obituary

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* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

references were also made in respect of the Army officers and *Jawans* who sacrificed their lives at Kargil.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which commenced its First Session on 25 October 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 13 November 1999. There were nine sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka addressed members of both the Houses on 27 October 1999. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was discussed for five days in which forty-two members participated. The Motion of Thanks was adopted after a reply by the Chief Minister on 13 November 1999.

Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker: On 26 October 1999, Shri M.V. Venkatappa was unanimously elected the Speaker of the Assembly. Shri Manohar H. Tahsildar was elected as the Deputy Speaker on 30 October 1999.

Legislative business: During the Session, the House unanimously adopted a resolution ratifying the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of some former members of the Legislative Assembly, other personalities and those who lost their lives in the natural calamities in Orissa.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Karnataka Legislative Council commenced its Ninety-first Session on 27 October 1999. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 12 November 1999. There were six sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka addressed members of both the Houses on 27 October 1999. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was adopted on 13 November 1999.

Legislative business: During the Session, an official Resolution ratifying the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999, as passed by both the Houses of Parliament, was adopted by the House.

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* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislature Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislature Secretariat

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of some former Ministers, members of the Legislative Council, some other important personalities and thousands of victims of the super-cyclone in Orissa.

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA*

The Eleventh Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, which commenced its Third Session on 25 October 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 26 November 1999.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Madhya Pradesh Motoryan Karadhan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (ii) The Bhartiya Stamp (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (iii) The Madhya Pradesh Manoranjan Shulka Tatha Vigyapan Par Kar (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (iv) The Karagar (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (v) The Madhya Pradesh Swayatta Sahakarita Vidheyak, 1999; (vi) The Madhya Pradesh Zilla Yojana Samiti (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (vii) The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No.4) Vidheyak, 1999; (viii) The Madhya Pradesh Gram Tatha Nagar Raksha Samiti Vidheyak, 1999; (ix) The Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Vedic Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; and (x) The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No.5) Vidheyak, 1999.

Financial business: On 17 November 1999, the Finance Minister, Shri Ajai Mushran introduced the Second Supplementary Demands for the year 1999-2000, which were granted by the House on 18 November 1999. He also introduced the Excess Demands on Grants for the year 1989-90 on 25 November 1999 and the same were passed by the House on the subsequent day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai and Shri Kalpanath Rai, both former Union Ministers, former Governor of Gujarat, Shri Krishnapal Singh, Shri Shiv Pratap Singh and Pt. Onkar Prasad Tiwari, both sitting members of the Assembly, Shri Baboorao Paranjape, former member of the Lok Sabha, and Sarvashri K.N. Pradhan, Ramji Mahajan, Mangi Lal Bhandari, Kunwar Yashwant Singh Kushwah, Rana Balbahadur Singh, Ranjit Singh, Shridharlal Hardenia, Donger Singh Patel and Bhagwan Singh, all former members of the Assembly. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of

* Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

the veteran freedom fighter and well-known journalist, Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari, those who lost their lives in the train mishap near Gaisal in West Bengal, the passengers of the bus that sunk in the Jam river at Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh and the victims of the super-cyclone in Orissa.

MANIPUR LEGISLTIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Sixth Manipur Legislative Assembly which commenced its Fifteenth Session on 5 July 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 29 July 1999. There were seventeen sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1999; (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1999; (iii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1999; (iv) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 1999; and (v) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 7) Bill, 1999.

Financial business: During the Session, the General Discussion on the Budget Estimates for the year 1999-2000 took place on 5 and 6 July 1999. Thereafter, the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants were held and all the Grants were passed by the House. On 21 July 1999, the Demand for Excess Grants for the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were presented in the House. On 26 July 1999, General Discussion and voting for Demands for Excess Grants for the above years were held and all the Grants were passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former members of the Legislative Assembly, Sarvashri N. Paoheu and L. Rongman.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Sixth Meghalaya Legislative Assembly which commenced its Fourth Session (Budget Session) on 19 March 1999, was prorogued on 9 April 1999. There were fourteen sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Meghalaya addressed the House on 19 March 1999. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Methrona R. Marak and seconded by Shri Kyrmen Susngi, both members of the Legislative Assembly. The Motion was discussed on 22 March 1999.

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* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Legislative business: During the Session, two Appropriation Bills and one Amendment Bill were introduced in the House and later passed.

Financial business: On 22 March 1999, the Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the year 1998-99. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants took place on 24 and 25 March 1999. The Budget Estimates for the year 1999-2000 with the Vote on Account for the first quarter of the financial year were presented on 30 March 1999. The General Discussion on the Budget Estimates was held on 1, 5 and 7 April 1999. The Finance Minister replied to the General Discussion on the Budget on 7 April 1999.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Prof. G.G. Swell and former members of the Legislative Assembly, Sarvashri Jormanik Syiem and Jackman Marak. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of a former member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Shri P.T. Jamir and a former member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri L.M. Mamani.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Orissa Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Sixteenth Session on 2 July 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 4 August 1999. The House was prorogued on 25 October 1999. There were twenty-four sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the the House: (i) The Orissa Entry Tax Bill, 1999; (ii) The Orissa Universities (Amendment) Bill, 1999; (iii) The Utkal University of Culture Bill, 1999; (iv) The Orissa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1999 (v) The Orissa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 1999; (vi) The Orissa Legislative Assembly Members' Salary, Allowances and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999; and (vii) The Orissa Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised occupants) Amendment Bill, 1999.

Financial business: On 2 July 1999, the Finance Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement of Expenditure for the year 1999-2000 together with the Vote-on-Account last made. Fourteen Demands on the Budget were discussed during the Session and Grants were made. The rest of the Demands were guillotined. The Appropriation Bill on the

* Material contributed by the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Budget was also passed. On 23 July 1999, the Finance Minister presented the Demands of Excess Expenditure for the years 1986-87 to 1995-96 and the Demands over Grants of Excess Expenditure were guillotined. The Appropriation Bill on the excess Demands were also passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former Speaker, Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty; former Deputy Speaker, Shri Narayan Birabar Samanta; sitting members of the Assembly, Sarvashri Jadav Majhi and Gangadhar Madi, former Minister, Sidhalal Murmu, former Government Chief Whip, Shri Vijay Kumar Pani, former members of the Assembly, Dr. Sushil Kumar Prusty, Shri Gopabandhu Patra, Shri Karunakaran Naik and Smt. Priyambada Devi. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of several officers of the Indian Army, Sarvashri Ratan Kumar Pradhan, Gangaram Das, Manas Ranjan Sahoo, Gopinath Maharana, Padmapani Acharya, S. N. Mallick, S. Srinivas Patro and Niranjan Behera and officer of Indian Air Force, Shri Raj Kishore Sahoo.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth West Bengal Legislative Assembly which commenced its Eighth Session on 26 November 1999 was adjourned *sine die* on 4 December 1999. The House was prorogued on 6 December 1999. There were six sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, seven Bills were introduced in the House and later passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former members of the Legislative Assembly, Sarvashri Ramlochan Mukhopadhyay and Basanta Lal Chatterjee; veteran trade union and Communist leader, Shri Kamalapati Roy; Bengali lyricist, Shri Pulak Bandyopadhyay; Rabindra Sangeet singer, Shri Shantideb Ghosh; veteran Bengali film actresses, Smt. Sandhyarani Chatterjee and Smt. Chandra Mukherjee; and the victims of the super-cyclone in Orissa.

* Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

SUMMARIES OF BOOKS

CATT, Helena : *Democracy in Practice* (London: MPG Books Ltd.), 1999 (Pages 166), (Price: £ 14.99)

Across every continent, democracy is desired but there is little agreement on exactly how to achieve it. Each country has its own set of procedures, each claiming to be democratic but based on a distinctive mix of beliefs about what is important for democracy, what is feasible and what is acceptable to the population. Looking at other groups, such as community organisations, workers' cooperatives and pressure groups, shows an even wider range of democratic practice. What all groups have in common is a need to make decisions on certain matters that affect all members, and what democratic groups share is a desire to make these decisions in a way that allows every member to participate in the decision.

Democracy is now widely seen as the best method to use for national government. The growing acceptance of democracy came with changing views on what it entailed, new suggestions about the appropriate worth and treatment of people and evolving social structures. Many strands are important to the development of democratic theory. Ideas about individuals as equal, autonomous beings and the proper role of the government fuelled debate about the best way to run a country and make decisions.

In most theoretical writings, democracy is not valued in itself, but because it provides other desirable ends. Central to the arguments for democracy and its gradual acceptance are the basic ideas of equality and individual liberty and what these concepts entail.

Participatory democracy is not used as part of the national government process in any country but there are a wide range of smaller groups who routinely use these methods. There was a resurgence of interest in the idea of participatory democracy in the late 1960s and early 1970s as part of the radical politics of the 'counter culture' or 'new Left', seen in student movements, women's groups and environmental groups. All were interested in changing 'the system' and saw process

as important and so in their own organisations wanted to practise equality, change the traditional hierarchical structures and encourage wider participation in decision-making . However, the use of participatory democracy is not confined to such groups nor to the later part of the twentieth century.

In the US, there is a long tradition of local government where 'all' take part in a town meeting that decides important issues. There has been variations as to who was included by 'all', as in the past women, 'non-freeman' and 'undesirables' were excluded in some places. Now elected councils are the dominant form of local government but there is a move to build in greater consultation with the public and so there has been a spread of consultative town meetings of various sorts. These encompass some aspects of participatory democracy, most particularly the importance of deliberation.

Clearly, participatory democracy is not easy; it needs time and a homogeneous group willing to debate issues face-to-face and strive for a solution acceptable to all. Such a group is most likely to comprise people with a belief that it is worth it, that the decisions are better because they recognise the needs of all or allowed each to have an equal say; or that the process is intrinsically preferable because it improves people. Those who use participatory democracy have distinct requirements and so it should be assessed in terms of these rather than the needs of those who want fast decisions. In assessing participatory democracy, the following aspects need to be examined: the degree of equality between members; consensus; homogeneity; the size of the group; and a belief in the system.

Central to participatory democracy is full involvement of all in all stages of the decision-making process, using face-to-face meetings with unrestricted discussion so as to reach a consensus. To achieve these aims, it helps if the group is a small, homogeneous collection of equals who believe in the process and have established a means of dealing with conflict.

There are strong advocates of participatory democracy who argue that the benefits of this procedure are worth the time and energy that is needed. There is the feeling that experience of participatory democracy helps the individual to develops into a better citizen. There is a recognition that participation in decision-making has to be learned and small groups where the people feel they are making a difference are a good training ground.

Direct democracy is seen as a feasible way to let all have a say and so improves on participatory democracy, but some critics worry that too much people, power is lost. For those interested primarily in good government, arguments about the ability of voters to make decisions and the effects on representative government are vital.

Another form of democracy, representative or liberal democracy, is characterised by the people choosing a few who make decisions for them and are accountable to the people for those decisions. In representative democracy, decisions are taken on behalf of everyone by a sub-group of the whole but the results are seen as democratic because the people have some influence over those decisions.

Choice for voters and accountability of representatives are the key aspects and are provided through regular elections. The extent to which there is a relationship between voters and elected representatives between elections is more debatable : the theoretical literature divides into those who think the elected people are there to follow the instructions of the voters and those who think the elected people were chosen as a body of decision-makers. Within each school of thought there are further divides on how such representation can occur.

Voter choice is structured by three important institutional aspects: the electoral system; the geographic electoral units; and the party system. Each shapes the type of decision open to voters and therefore the kind of representation that is possible. Electoral systems are a crucial aspect of the institutional structuring of voters' choice of representatives. The geographic organisation of elections also has an important impact. In the Netherlands, Israel and Paraguay there are no divisions into constituencies but in all other countries some kind of smaller units are created. The multi-member systems, the constituencies are large, often covering a whole city or a region while in single-member systems the areas are small. Political parties provide the range of options available for the voters both in terms of which policy packages are on offer and which people are standing. In most countries, all candidates are standing for a political party and thus adhere to the party's manifesto and campaigning strategy. This is particularly true in closed-list systems where the voters choose a party, not a candidate. Therefore, the range of policy packages available to the voters is limited by the range of parties that contest the election. The type of people who stand for election is also affected by political parties.

Descriptions of democratic practice illustrate not only the desire for

democratic decisions by a wide range of groups but also practical problems for each model when put into practice. With changes in society, such as developments in telecommunications and the subsequent increase in information, some of these problems may now be solvable. The other major area of change is in the location of political decision-making with the growth in global and local political units. Just at the time when more countries are moving towards democratic government, many decisions are moving away from the scope of national bodies. Taken together, such changes suggest that the practice of democracy will continue to evolve over the coming decades as new political units are formed and different methods are used for discussion and decision-making. One question that is central to ideas about the future of democracy is that of which people should be included in the group making a decision.

The challenge for democracy in the twenty-first century is not so much how democracy is achieved but which decisions are taken democratically and which group of people participates. Choices of democratic procedure will follow from the composition of the group and the type of decisions that are made. No set of democratic procedures is perfect and concessions are made for practical reasons. Where democracy is totally lacking is in the growing number of decisions that are made by other means or by people who are not accountable to the elected representatives.

MAJUMDAR, A.K. and SINGH, Bhanwar: *Democratic Theory and its application to Indian Politics* (Jaipur: RBSA Publishers), 1999 (Pages: 414), (Price: Rs. 650/-)

From the very beginning of human civilization, the urge for liberty, equality and fraternity was somehow well acquainted with the human mind. Traditionally, from Plato to Moore or even in the subsequent periods, the current of this thinking was changing with human progress.

Democracy has been widened to comprehend within its scope not merely political equality but economic welfare and social justice too. However, it remains so much allied to the capitalist economic institutions that socialist governments of Scandinavian countries and the people's democracies of the Communist bloc are sneered at as deviationist from traditional democratic concepts.

India has made a significant contribution to political philosophy by

introducing not only democratic governance but also striving ceaselessly to practice it in economic and social domains. Indian democracy has generated forces of conservation and reaction where capitalist and people's democracies stand arraigned against each other; they mutually repudiate each other's claim to the democratic ideal, each camp finding and admiring homogeneous features in Indian democracy.

In India we have accepted, for all intents and purposes, the democratic system of government after Independence, and to that effect a new Constitution incorporating the necessary ideals of democracy like liberty, equality, justice and fraternity has been framed. All the political groups in the country have unanimously accepted the fundamentals of the democratic system, and they are working with great many reservations within the framework of the Constitution.

Democracy not only stands for a particular system of Government, but it aims at the attainment of such a society as is self-sufficient, free from corruption and equal in all respects. And for the attainment of such a society, a strong leadership is indispensable, particularly when the people badly lack initiative and political consciousness.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was a democrat as well as a socialist. The high ideals of democracy and socialism were epitomized in him. History had selected India as one of democracy's and socialism chief testing grounds. Nehru played a significant part in enabling India to meet this challenge. He was the harbinger of the socialist trend in Indian National Movement and, indeed, was instrumental in making India embark upon the path of socialism. He wanted to achieve the objectives of socialism gradually within the democratic framework. He was one of the few who did not take democracy for granted but sought to explain his conception and show how it could be brought into harmony with his conception of socialism and how it could be implemented.

The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 was the most concrete expression of Nehru's means for achieving socialism in India. The establishment of a Planning Commission and the era of planning that it started gave Nehru a chance to work simultaneously for economic development and social justice. The Planning Commission became his chief instrument to translate his ideas into practice. Nehru considered planning as something dynamic, as a movement in thinking and action, from the political to the social and economic plans. And such a movement had certain basic objectives. The first objective was to establish a Socialist State and a democratic, socialist, and secular

modern society. The socialism that Nehru considered was "a growing dynamic concept, as something which is not rigid, as something which must fit with the changing conditions of human life and the achievements of this country."

The concept of Indian democratic socialism is the outcome of an evolutionary process. It was only in 1955 that at Avadi the Congress formally adopted the objective of attainment of a 'socialist pattern of society' and directed that planning should aim at bringing about this end. Accordingly, the Second Five-Year Plan laid stress on "the raising of living standards, the enlargement of opportunities for all, the promotion of enterprise among the disadvantaged classes and the creation of a sense of partnership among all sections of the community". In 1957, at Indore, the Congress objective was changed to "socialist co-operative commonwealth." In pursuance of this objective, the Third Five-Year Plan aimed at achieving progress towards socialism.

In 1964, at Bhubaneswar the Congress objective was changed to "democratic socialism", *i.e.* socialism by consent of the people, socialism based on parliamentary democracy. "The social objective of the Congress", to quote the language of Prof. N.C. Bhattacharyya, "has thus travelled from 'socialistic or socialist pattern of society' to 'socialist co-operative commonwealth', and from the latter to democratic socialism."

The concept of democratic socialism evolved by the Congress has no doctrinaire bias. It is in the main a plan of action to extend the principles of political democracy to the economic and social spheres within the shortest possible time. Accordingly, we are striving for rapid economic development simultaneously in the public and private sectors—with the active, willing and conscious support of the people—keeping a vigilant eye on the reduction of disparities in income and wealth and prevention of concentration of economic power.

The basis of our socialism is "democracy, dignity of the human individual and social justice." We are going to bring about a socialist society through non-violent and peaceful means. We are endeavouring to achieve socialism without authoritarianism and class-struggle. Instead of adopting the principle of concentration of authority, we have adopted the principle of democratic decentralisation—what is known as Panchayati Raj—which involves "progressive increase in competence from the ground upwards and corresponding transfer or responsibilities from the Centre to the Ground."

What is demanded at the moment is a vigorous pursuit of a programme of honest socio-economic transformation of India with a view to ensuring the welfare of the masses in a concrete manner. The evils of widespread poverty, low standard of living, unemployment and under-employment are eating into the vitals of our country. As a matter of fact, the existing social and economic conditions have produced feelings of frustration and insecurity in the minds of the masses.

For the successful working of our democracy, political parties should work in harmony and cooperation. If the ruling party can show a spirit of accommodation and the Opposition, a sense of responsiveness, parliamentary democracy will work successfully. Our efforts should be to make our parliamentary democracy successful in all respects, keeping in view the fact that on its success depends to a great extent the success of our democratic socialism.

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APPENDIX I(A)

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	20 October 1999 to 29 October 1999
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	8
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	44 Hours and 28 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	4
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Introduced	8
	(ii) Discussed	4
	(iii) Passed	4
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	2
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	23
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Discussions held	2
7.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	4
8.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Notices received	9
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Moved	2
	(iv) Withdrawn	2
9.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	24
	(ii) Admitted	18
	(iii) Moved	—
10.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION	Two (House Committee & Business Advisory Committee)
11.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	5,680
12.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,286 on 27.10.1999
13.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS BROUGHT BEFORE THE HOUSE	5

14. PETITIONS PRESENTED 1

15. NUMBEROF NEW MEMBERS WHO SUBSCRIPTED OATH/AFFIRMATION WITH DATE

408+1*	20.10.1999
111	21.10.1999
007	22.10.1999
002	25.10.1999
003	26.10.1999
001	28.10,1999
001	29.10.1999
Total	533+1=534

*Speaker *Pro tem* subscribed Oath in President House at 9.30 a.m. on 20.10.1999

APPENDIX I(B) (CONTD.)

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	29 November to 23 December 1999
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	19
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	123 Hours and 33 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	Two, on 2.12.1999 and 17.12.1999
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	4
	(ii) Introduced	14
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	11
	(iv) Referred by Joint Committee	2
	(v) Discussed	21
	(vi) Passed	21
	(vii) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	2
	(viii) Motion for concurrence to refer the Bill jo Joint Committee adopted	1
	(ix) Pending at the end of the Session	5
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(li) Introduced	48
	(ll) Part-discussed	1
	(iii) Pending at the end of the session	48 (including one part-discussed)
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	162
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING 'ZERO HOUR'	259
9.	Number of Discussions held under Rule 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	98
	(ii) Admitted	5
	(iii) Part-discussed	5
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	5
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	10
12.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	5

13.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Notices received	1*
	(ii) Admitted	1
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	1
14.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Notices received	2
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Moved	2
	(iv) Adopted	2
15.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Received	9
	(ii) Admitted	9
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	Nil
	(vi) Part-discussed	1
	(vii) Discussions postponed	1
16.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	247
	(ii) Admitted	80
	(iii) Moved	Nil
	(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
17.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	7
	Consent withheld by the Speaker outside the House	7
18.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION	Nil
19.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	15,516
20.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,329 on 22.12.1999
21.	NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS	
	(i) Brought before the House	2
	(ii) Consent withheld by Speaker	2
22.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	380
	(ii) Unstarred	3,769
	(iii) Short Notice Questions	2
	(iv) Half-an-hour discussions	5

* Two amendments to the Statutory Resolution were received, admitted, moved and adopted

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 October to 31 December 1999	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	4
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	—	—
iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	—	—
iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
v)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
vi)	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	—	—
vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	—	—
viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xi)	Estimates Committee	—	—
xii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xiii)	House Committee	—	—
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee b) Sub-Committee on Amenities		
xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	—	2
xv)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xvi)	Rules Committee	—	—
	JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
	STANDING COMMITTEES		
i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Communications	—	—
iii)	Committee on Defence	—	—
iv)	Committee on Energy	—	—
v)	Committee on External Affairs	—	—
vi)	Committee on Finance	—	—
vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	—	—
viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	—	—
xii)	Committee on the Empowerment of Women	—	—
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE	—	—
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	—	1
26.	NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN	—	8 on 29 November 1999 (including two nominated members)

APPENDIX II(A)

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	21 October to 29 October 1999
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	6
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTINGS HOURS	29 HOURS & 41 MINUTES
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	4
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	34
	(ii) Introduced	Nil
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	4
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees	Nil
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Departmentally related Standing Committees	Nil
	(xi) Discussed	4
	(xii) Passed	4
	(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	2
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	34
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	142

(ii)	Introduced	Nil
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi)	Discussed	Nil
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	Nil
(xii)	Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	6
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	136

7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

(i)	Notices received	3
(ii)	Admitted	2 (on two subjects)
(iii)	Discussions held	2

NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

8.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	Nil
9.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	Nil
10.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
11.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
12.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil

(iii) Discussed	Nil
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	337
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	463
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	97 on 27.10.1999
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	152 on 27.10.1999
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	Nil
(ii) Unstarred	Nil
(iii) Short Notice Questions	Nil

22. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES — Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

S.I No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 21 October to 29 October 1999	No. of Reports presented during the 187th Session
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	1	NIL
ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
iii)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
iv)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
v)	Committee on Rules	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
viii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
ix)	House Committee	—	—
	DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES:		
x)	Commerce	—	—
xi)	Home Affairs	—	—
xii)	Human Resource Development	—	—
xiii)	Industry	—	—
xiv)	Science & Technology, Environment & Forests	—	—
xv)	Transport and Tourism	—	—
	OTHER COMMITTEES		
xvi)	Ethics Committee	—	—
xvii)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	—	—

24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — Nil

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED — —

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

S.No.	Name of Members sworn in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn
1	2	3	4
1.	Dr. (Smt.) Joyasree Goswami Mahanta	A.G.P.	21.10.1999
2.	Shri Eduardo Faleiro	I.N.C.	-do-
3.	Shri Lalitbhai Mehta	B.J.P.	-do-
4.	Shri Ahmed Patel	I.N.C.	-do-
5.	Shrimati Savita Sharda	B.J.P.	-do-
6.	Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari	C.P.I.(M)	-do-

7.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee	I.N.C.	-do-
8.	Shri Abani Roy	R.S.P.	-do-
9.	Shri Jibon Roy	C.P.I.(M)	-do-
10.	Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury	Independent	-do-

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

S.No.	Name	Sitting member/ Ex-member/dignitary
1.	Shri Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania	
2.	Shri Salay Mohammad Salt	Ex-member
3.	Shrimati Sharda Bhargava	-do-
4.	Shri Adityendra	-do-
5.	Shri Virendra Kumar Sakhalecha	-do-
6.	Shri K.K. Madhavan	-do-
7.	Shri P.V. Anandan	-do-
8.	Shri Parag Chaliha	Sitting member
9.	Shri K.N. Singh	Ex-member
10.	Thakur Jagatpal Singh	-do-
11.	Shri Lalsawia	-do-
12.	Shri Kalpnath Rai	-do-
13.	Shri Maqsood Ali Khan	-do-
14.	Shri Ish Dutt Yadav	Sitting member
15.	Shri R.K. Kumar	Ex-member

APPENDIX II(B)

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	21 November to 23 December 1999
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	19
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTINGS HOURS	104 hours & 57 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	3
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	34
	(ii) Introduced	18
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	11
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	01*
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	01**
	(vii) Referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees	7
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Departmentally related Standing Committees	Nil
	(xi) Discussed	13
	(xii) Passed	21***
	(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	3
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil

* The Prevention of Money Laundereing Bill, 1999 as passed by the Lok Sabha was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha

** The Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 as introduced in the Rajya Sabha was referred to the Joint Committee of the Houses

*** Including 2 bills which were introduced in and passed by the Rajya Sabha and were transmitted to the Lok Sabha

(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	42
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	136
(ii) Introduced	14
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi) Discussed	3
(vii) Withdrawn	2
(viii) Passed	Nil
(ix) Negatived	Nil
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi) Part-discussed	1
(xii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	Nil
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	148
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	35
(ii) Admitted	18 (on 6 subjects)
(iii) Discussions held	5
NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
8. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	4
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	4
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	2
(ii) Admitted	2

(iii) Moved	2
(iv) Adopted	2
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	3
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Discussed	Nil
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	1
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	59
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1003
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	1445
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	126 on 23.12.1999

20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE — 186 on 8 & 23.12.1999

21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i) Starred — 379

(ii) Unstarred — 2451

(iii) Short Notice Questions — 1

22. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES — Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

S.l No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1.10.99 to 31.12.99	No. of Reports presented during the 188th Session
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	NIL
ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	5	2
iii)	Committee on Petitions	5	3
iv)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
v)	Committee on Rules	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	7	1
vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	1
viii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
ix)	House Committee	1	—
DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES:		—	—
x)	Commerce	—	—
xi)	Home Affairs	—	—
xii)	Human Resource Development	—	—
xiii)	Industry	—	—
xiv)	Science & Technology, Environment & Forests	—	—
xv)	Transport and Tourism	—	—
OTHER COMMITTEES			
xvi)	Ethics Committee	2	1
xvii)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of the Rajya Sabha	1	—
xviii)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	1
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE		5
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	Nil	Nil

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

S.No.	Name of Members sworn in	Party Affiliation	D
1.	Shri Fali S. Nariman	Nominated	
2.	Shri Cho. S. Ramaswamy	-do-	
3.	Shri Nana Deshmukh	-do-	
4.	Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey	CPI(M)	

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

S.No.	Name	Sitting member/Ex-me
1.	Shri T. Chengalvaroyan	Ex-memb
2.	Dr. (Shrimati) Sathiavani Muthu	-do-
3.	Prof. Ramlal Parikh	-do-
4.	Shri K.L. Sharma	-do-
5.	Shri T.M. Venkatachalam	Sitting men

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

LEGISLATURE	DURATION	SITTINGS	GOVT. BILLS	PRIVATE STARRED Bills	UNSTARRED Questions	SHORT Questions	NOTICE Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	10.11.99 to 17.11.99	6	2	—	310(149)	(74)	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	29.10.99 to 5.11.99 20.10.99 to 22.12.99	6	9(9)	—	169(100)	79(132)(a)	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	22.12.99 to 24.12.99	3	2(1)	—	60	263	2(2)
Goa L.A.	30.11.99 to 30.11.99 30.12.99 to 30.12.99	2	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	521(378)	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	9.12.99 to 20.12.99	8	5(4)	—	386(224)	50(25)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	25.10.99 to 13.11.99	9	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	27.10.99 to 13.11.99	6	—	—	—	—	—

Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	25.10.99 to 26.11.99	7	11(10)	—	4,602(2,463)	2,392(1,940)	1
Maharashtra L.A.	20.10.99 to 23.10.99 13.12.99 to 24.12.99	14	20(19)	8	3,327(544)	11(105)(b)	30(6)
Maharashtra L.C.	22.10.99 to 23.10.99 13.12.99 to 24.12.99	12	(1)	13	2,396(614)(c)	19(153)(d)	31(8)
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	16.12.99 to 20.12.99	3	2(2)	—	38(38)	—	21(21)
Mizoram L.A.	29.11.99 to 29.11.99 29.12.99 to 29.12.99	1	—	—	73(70)	61(59)	—
Nagaland	6.12.99 to 6.12.99	1	—	—	2(2)	—	—
Orissa L.A.	10.12.99 to 18.12.99	7	4(2)	—	564(303)	448(380)	1
Punjab L.A.	—	—	—	—	74(59)	31(25)	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	31.12.99 to 5.1.2000	4	9(11)	—	2,361(1,456)(e)	925(681)	475(360)(f)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	31.12.99 to 6.1.2000	5	2(11)	—	520(378)	190(150)	45
West Bengal L.A.	26.11.99 to 3.12.99	6	7(7)	—	340(208)	113(92)	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.	29.10.99 to 29.10.99	1	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:

a) 132 including converted questions
b) Total notices received – 479
c) This includes questions which were originally tables as starred questions but converted as unstarred questions
d) Bracketing – 411
e) This includes questions which were originally tables as starred questions but admitted as unstarred questions
f) Questions as starred – 157
   Questions as unstarred – 1,299
g) As short notices – 62
   As starred – 108
   As unstarred – 190

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Govt. Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	Committee on Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SC and ST	Estimates Committee	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	3	2	4(1)	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	2[a]
Bihar L.A.	—	51	29	—	—	19	25	30	50	—	32	13	20	—	—	161[b]
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	3	—	1(1)	3(1)	—	2(1)	1	2(1)	—	—	—	2	—	1	2[c]
Goa L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	4	—	—	1	4	2	8	9	1	4	1	9	—	—	13[d]
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	2(2)	—	4	—	8	10(7)	—	10(2)	—	—	1	—	13(48)	—	—	36(20)[e]
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir LC.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	2	3	3	2	4	6	7	4	4	—	2	1	4	—	—	18(f)
Karnataka L.C.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	7[g]
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	4(3)	2(1)	1(7)	3(3)	4	2(22)	—	2	3	—	1	2	3	—	—	1[h]
Maharashtra L.A.	4(3)	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.	4(3)	—	(1)	2(2)	4	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	1(1)	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	1	11(4)	1	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1(3)	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Orissa L.A.	2	6(1)	6(1)	—	—	6	3	—	5(1)	—	—	1	4	—	—	12[d]
Punjab L.A.	—	18	16	—	11	23	12	14	24	—	1	11	27	—	—	15[d]
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	—	—	1	—	5	—	2	4	3	—	2	1	3	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	4(4)	7(2)	7(1)	—	1	6	6	6	5	—	—	1	7	1	—	4[k]
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	202[d]
West Bengal L.A.	3(3)	14	8	—	3	6	11	—	6	—	9	—	11(3)	—	—	128(2)[m]
UNION TERRITORY																
Pondicherry L.A.	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	1	26	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

(a) Employment Review Committee-2 sittings

(b) Zila Parishad Committee-74 sittings; Nivedan Committee-24 sittings; Women and Child Welfare Committee-38 sittings; and Internal Resources and Central Assistance Committee-25 sittings

(c) Committee on Women and Child Welfare-2 sittings

(d) Committee on Panchayati Raj-5 sittings ; Committee on Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Class-3 sittings; Committee on Absence of Members-1 sitting; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4 sittings

(e) Revenue Committee-5 sittings amd 1 report: Health and Family Welfare-5 sittings and 5 reports: General Administration-6 sittings and 2

reports; Agriculture and Horticulture-6 sittings and 2 reports; Education Committee-7 sittings and 5 reports; Forest Committee-4 sittings and 2 reports; and Tourism Committee-3 sittings and 3 reports

(f) Committee on Papers Laid-6 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Women and Child Development-7 sittings; and Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-5 sittings

(g) House Committee to Review the Existing Purchase Policy of Government-7 sittings

(h) Women and Children Welfare Committee-1 sitting

(i) Women and Child Welfare Committee-6 sittings; House Committee on Drought-1 sitting; Committee kon Jagannath Temple Administration-2 sittings and 1 report; Ethics Committee-2 sittings and 1 report; and House Committee on Super Cyclone-2 sittings

(j) Committee on Papers laid/to be laid on the Table-13 sittings; and Committee of the House to enquire into recruitment of Teachers by the previous Government-2 sittings

(k) Question and Reference Committee-3 sittings; and Parliamentary Research, Reference and Studies Committee-1 sitting

(l) Vithiya Evam Prashashkiya Vilamb Samiti-18 sittings

(m) Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare-8 sittings; Standing Committee on Environment and Cooperation-10 sittings; Standing Committee on Panchayat, Rural Development, Land Reforms and Animal Resources Development-11 sittings; Standing Committee on Education and Information and Cultural Affairs and Sports and Youth Services-8 sittings; Standing Committee on Transport and Public Health Engineering-9 sittings; Committee on the Entitlements of the Members-1 sitting and 1 report; Standing Committee on Irrigation and Waterways and Water Investigation and Development-11 sittings; Standing Committee on Social Welfare-7 sittings; Committee on Reforms and Functioning of the Committee System-1 sitting; Standing Committee on Power and Commerce and Industries, Science and Technology and non-Conventional Energy Sources-8 sittings; Standing Committee on Agriculture, Agriculture (Marketing), Food and Supplies Processing, Horticulture and Fisheries-9 sittings and 1 report; Standing Committee on Urban Development, Municipal Affairs, Housing and Public Works and Tourism-10 sittings; Standing Committee on Labour-6 sittings; Standing Committee on Relief, Refugee Relief, and Rehabilitation and Forests-9 sittings; Standing Committee on Industrial Reconstruction, Cottage and Small Scale Industries-11 sittings; and Standing Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes-9 sitting

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.11.1999
2.	The Contingency Fund of India Bill, 1999	16.11.1999
3.	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.11.1999
4.	The Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.12.1999
5.	The Securities Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.12.1999
6.	The Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.12.1999
7.	The Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.12.1999
8.	The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1999	16.12.1999
9.	The Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1999	17.12.1999
10.	The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1999	17.12.1999
11.	The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1999	18.12.1999
12.	The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999	29.12.1999
13.	The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999	29.12.1999
14.	The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999	29.12.1999
15.	The Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999	29.12.1999
16.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1999	29.12.1999
17.	The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Bill, 1999	30.12.1999
18.	The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999	30.12.1999
19.	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999	30.12.1999
20.	The Trade Marks Bill, 1999	30.12.1999
21.	The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999	30.12.1999
22.	The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 1999	30.12.1999

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 1999
2. The Assam Panchayat and Employees (Provincialisation) Bill, 1999
3. The Assam Tea Plantations Employees Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1999
4. The Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1999
5. The Assam General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1999
6. The Assam Contigency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1999
7. The Assam Panchayat Council Bill, 1999
8. The Assam Medical Council Bill, 1999
9. The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1999

DELHI VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Delhi Minorities Commission Bill, 1999

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Madhya Pradesh Motoryan Karadhan (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 1999
2. The Bhartiya Stamp (Madhya Pradesh Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 1999
3. The Madhya Pradesh Manoranjan Shulka Tatha Vigyapan Par Kar (Dwitiya Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 1999
4. The Karagar (Madhya pradesh Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 1999
5. The Madhya Pradesh Swayatta Sahakarita Vidheyak, 1999
6. The Madhya Pradesh Zila Yojana Samiti (Dwitiya-Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 1999
7. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No. 4) Vidheyak, 1999
8. The Madhya Pradesh Gram Tatha Nagar Raksha Samiti Vidheyak, 1999
9. The Maharshi Mahesh Yogi Vadic Vishwavidyalaya (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 1999
10. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No. 5) Vidheyak, 1999

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1999
2. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Town-

ships (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999

3. The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
4. The Maharashtra Pre-school Centres (Regulation of Admission) (Amendment) Bill, 1999
5. The Maharashtra Metropolitan Planning Committees (Constitution and Functions) (Continuance of Provisions) Bill, 1999
6. The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
7. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
8. The Coroners (Maharashtra Repeal) Bill, 1999
9. The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation, the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, the Maharashtra Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
10. The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
11. The Maharashtra Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
12. The Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) (Continuance) Bill, 1999
13. The Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement and Marketing) (Retrospective Extension of Duration and Continuance) Bill, 1999
14. The Bombay Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
15. The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999
16. The Maharashtra Sales Tax on the Transfer of Property in Goods involved in the Execution of Works Contracts (Re-enacted) (Amendment) Bill, 1999
17. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1999
18. The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1999
19. The Maharashtra Legislature Member's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999
20. The Maharashtra Rent Control Bill, 1999

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Board of School Education (Amendment) Bill, 1999
2. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1999

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1999
2. The Orissa Contigency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1999

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Kalyani University (Amendment) Bill, 1999
2. The West Bengal Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1999
3. The West Bengal Sales Tax (Settlement of Dispute) (Amendment) Bill, 1999

4. The Special Marriage (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1999
5. The Parsi Marriage and Divorce (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1999
6. The Indian Christian Marriage (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1999
7. The West Bengal National Volunteer Force (Amendment) Bill, 1999

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of cessation	Remarks
			UNION GOVERNMENT		
1.	The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	18.11.99	29.12.99	10.1.2000	—
			STATE GOVERNMENTS		
			ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	The A.P. Scheduled Caste (Rationalisation of Reservations) Ordinance, 1999	9.12.99	—	—	—
2.	The A.P. Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	24.12.99	—	—	—

3.	The A. P. Oil Palm (Regulation of Production and Processing) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	24.12.99	—	—	—
4.	The A.P. Private Aided Educational Staff (Regulation of Pay) Second Ordinance, 1999	28.12.99	—	—	—
5.	The A.P. General Sales Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	31.12.99	—	—	—
			ASSAM		
1.	The Assam Contigency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	30.7.99	29.10.99	—	—
			GUJARAT		
1.	The Gujarat Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	3.12.99	—	—	—
2.	The Gujarat State Guarantees (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	10.12.99	—	—	—
3.	The Gujarat Sales Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	31.12.99	—	—	—

		KARNATAKA			
1.	The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Ordinance, 1999	4.8.99	—	—	—
2.	The Karnataka Sales Tax Ordinance, 1999	1.1.2000	—	—	—
3.	The Karnataka Rent Control Ordinance, 1999	31.12.99	—	—	—
		MAHARASHTRA			
1.	The Bombay Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	4.10.99	22.10.99	14.11.99	—
2.	The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation, the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, the Maharashtra Godavari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment) Ordinances, 1999	8.10.99	22.10.99	18.11.99	—
3.	The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	11.10.99	22.10.99	21.11.99	—

4.	The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	22.11.99	13.12.99	2.1.2000	—
5.	The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
6.	The Maharashtra Pre-School Centres (Regulation of Admission) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
7.	The Maharashtra Metropolitan Planning Committees (Constitution and Functions) (Continuance of Provisions) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
8.	The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
9.	The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
10.	The Coroners (Maharashtra Repeal) (Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—

11.	The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
12.	The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation, the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, the Maharashtra Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment) and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
13.	The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
14.	The Maharashtra Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—

15.	The Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) (Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
16.	The Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procedure, Processing and Marketing) (Retrospective Extension of Duration and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
17.	The Bombay Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
18.	The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1999	2.12.99	13.12.99	12.1.2000	—
			ORISSA		
1.	The Orissa Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	4.11.99	15.12.99	—	—
			UTTAR PRADESH		
1.	The U.P. Trade Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	21.10.99	3.1.2000	11.1.2000	—

2.	The U.P. Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	23.10.99	3.1.2000	11.1.2000	—
3.	The U.P. Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Dwitiya Sansodhan) Ordinance, 1999	30.10.99	3.1.2000	9.1.2000	—
4.	The U.P. Tax on Entry of Goods Ordinance, 1999	30.10.99	3.1.2000	10.2.2000	—
5.	The U.P. Entertainments and Betting Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	5.11.99	3.1.2000	10.1.2000	—
6.	The Societies Registration (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	25.11.99	3.1.2000	11.1.2000	—
7.	The U.P. Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Tritiya Sansodhan) Adhyadesh, 1999	30.11.99	3.1.2000	9.1.2000	—
8.	The U.P. State Commission for Women (Repeal) Ordinance, 1999	9.12.99	3.1.2000	12.1.2000	—
9.	The U.P. Urban Planning and Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	17.12.99	3.1.2000	11.1.2000	—

WEST BENGAL

1.	The West Bengal National Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	17.9.99	29.11.99	30.11.99	—
2.	The West Bengal Sales Tax (Settlement of Dispute) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	10.11.99	30.11.99	3.12.99	—
3.	The West Bengal Sales Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	10.11.99	30.11.99	3.12.99	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 20 OCTOBER 1999)

Sl. No.	Seats	INC	AIADMK	SP	CPI(M)	CPI	CPIM(L)	RJD	RSP	BSP	AIM	MUL	KCM	RLD	KC	SJP(R)	FB	TDP	BJP	JD(U)	SAD	BJD	AITC
Andhra Pradesh	42	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	7	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	13	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bihar	50	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	17	—	—	—
Goa	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	—	—
Kerala	20	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	40	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—
Manipur	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	10	—
Punjab	13	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Rajasthan	25	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	2	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	85	10	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	29	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	3	—	—	21	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	8
UNION TERRITORIES																							
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	537	111	10	26	32	4	1	7	3	14	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	29	182	20	2	10	8

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 20 OCTOBER 1999)

Sl. No.	SS	SAD(M)	INLD	JD(S)	DMK	MGRDMK	PMK	MDMK	HVC	BBM	NC	SDF	NCP	MSCP	PWP	ABLTC	IND	TOTAL	VACANCIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	1
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Maharashtra	15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	1	—	1	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	
Punjab	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	12	1	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	85	1
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
UNION TERRITORIES																			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	15	1	5	1	12	1	5	4	1	1	4	1	7	1	1	2	5	543	2

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
(AS ON 24 FEBRUARY 2000)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	TDP	JD	RJD	SP	CPI	DMK	AIA-DMK(I)	Shiv Sena	SAD	Others	Indep-endents	Total	Vacan-cies
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	3	1	1	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	17	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3.	Assam	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3(a)	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	22	2	3	—	—	3	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	1(b)	1	20	2
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	11	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	—
7.	Haryana	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(c)	—	5	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(d)	—	3	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(e)	—	3	1
10.	Karnataka	12	5	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	1
11.	Kerala	9	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3(f)	—	9	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—
13.	Maharashtra	19	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	3	19	—
14.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16.	Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Orissa	10	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(g)	—	10	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19.	Punjab	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	7	—
20.	Rajasthan	10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(h)	—	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	18	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—	—	3(i)	2	18	—
23.	Tripura	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34	2	15	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	4(j)	4	31	3
25.	West Bengal	16	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3(k)	1	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																		
26.	Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Nominated	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	12	—
	TOTAL	245	62	43	16	10	9	9	7	7	7	5	5	5	26	26	237	8

(a) Asom Gana Parishad-2; Autonomous State Demand Committee-1
(b) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha -1
(c) Indian National Lok Dal-1; Haryana Vikas Party-1
(d) Himachal Vikas Congress-1
(e) J & K National Conference-2
(f) Muslim League-2; Kerala Congress-1
(g) Biju Janata Dal-3
(h) Sikkim Demoratic Front-1
(i) Tamil Manila Congress-3
(j) Bahujan Samaj Party-4
(k) Forward Bloc-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party-1

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	Cong. (I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	Others Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (1.1.2000)	295	91—	12	2	—	5	184[a]	294	1	
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.** (1.1.2000)	126	36	—	4	2	3	68[b]	11	124	2
Bihar L.A. (31.12.99)	325	28	15	42	6	26	188[c]	13	318[a]	6
Bihar L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.1.2000)	70	53	1	14	—	—	—	2	70	—
Goa L.A. (1.1.2000)	40	15	—	10	—	—	14[d]	1	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.1.2000)	182	56	4	117	—	—	—	3	180	2
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	68	28	—	34	—	—	4[e]	1	67	1
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	224	131	—	44	—	—	29[f]	19	223[a]	—
Karnataka L.C.	75	22	5	12	—	—	30[g]	3	72[a]	2
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.1.2000)	321	169	1	117	—	—	20[h]	8	315[e]	5

Maharashtra L.A. (1.1.2000)	289	74	—	56	2	—	143[j]	12	287	2
Maharashtra L.C. (1.4.2000)	76	12	2	16	—	—	32[j]	13	73	3
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A. (1.1.2000)	60	16	—	—	—	—	44[k]	—	60	—
Mizoram L.A. (1.1.2000)	40	6	—	—	—	—	33[l]	1	40	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.1.2000)	60	52	—	—	—	—	—	8	60	—
Orissa L.A. (1.1.2000)	147	81	13	10	—	—	30[m]	9	143	4
Punjab L.A.* (1.1.2000)	117	15	—	18	2	76	5[n]	116	1	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A. (1.1.2000)	60	13	—	—	38	1	6[o]	2	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (10.1.2000)	426	15	4	174	4	1	208[p]	12	418	8
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.1.2000)	108	2	—	52	1	—	44[q]	8	107	2
West Bengal L.A. (31.1.2000)	295	73	—	1	152	6	57[r]	2	291	4
UNION TERRITORY										
Pondicherry L.A.	33	8	1	—	—	2	20[s]	2	32[t]	—

❷Excluding Speaker

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

a) Telugu Desam Party–179; All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-4; and Nominated–1

b) Asom Gana Parishad-61; Autonomous State Demand Committee-5; and UMF-2

c) RJD-150; JMM(Soren)-16; Samata Party-4; Samata Party(Patel)-1; CPI(Male)-6; JMM-2; MCC-2; Jharkhand Peoples Party-2; Bahujan Samajwadi Party-2; Jharkahnd Party-1; Champaran Vikas Party-1; Nominated-1

d) INC(Sardinha Group)-11; NCP-1; and MGP-2

e) Himachal Vikas Congress-3; and Unattached-1

f) Janata Dal(S)-10; AIADMK-1; and Janata Dal(U)-18

g) Janata Dal (Secular)-18; Janata Dal (United)-5; Separate Legislature Group of Janata Dal-5; and Lok Shakti-2

h) Bahujan Samaj Party-7; Samajwadi Party-4; Pragatishil Bahujan Samaj Party-4; Bharatiya Republican Party-1; Janata Party-1; Ajai Bharat Party-1; Gondwana Gantantra Party-1; and Nominated-1

i) Shiv Sena-69; Nationalist Congress Party-58; Peasants and Workers Party-5; Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh-3; Janata Dal-2; Samajwadi Party-1; Gondwana Gantantra Party-1; Native People's Party-1; Republican Party of India-1; Samajwadi Janata Party (Maharashtra)-1; Samajwadi Party (B)-12

j) Shiv Sena-16; Nationalist Congress Party-14; Republican Party of India-1; and Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh-1

k) MPF-38; UPF-4; and others-2

l) Mizo National Front-21; and Mizoram Peoples Conference-12

m) Biju Janata Dal-25; JMM-4; and JPP-1

n) Shiromani Akali Dal-74; Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann)-1; and Bahujan Samaj Party-1

o) RSP-2; and TUJS-4

p) Samajwadi Partry-102; Bahujan Samaj Party-49; Uttar Pradesh Lok Tantrik Congress-20; Jantantrik Bahujan Samaj Party-19; Lok Dal-8; Janata Dal (Raja Ram Pandey)-3; Samata Party-2; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1; Nominated-1; and Unattached-3

q) Samajwadi Party-24; Bahujan Samaj party-9; Bharatiya kisan Kamgar Party-1; Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress-1; and Shikshak Dal (Non-Political)-9

r) All India Forward Bloc-21; Revolutionary Socialist Party-18; Democratic Socialist Party-2; Marxist Forward bloc-2; Biplabi Bangla Congress-1; Socialist Party-3; Socialist Unity Centre of India-2; Gorkha National Liberation Front-3; Forward Bloc(s)-1; West Bengal Trinamool Congress-3; and Nominated-1

s) DMK-10; TMC (Moopnar)-6; AIADMK-2; Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and AIADMK (Thiru)-1

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